

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). On the Indian Railways prepayment of freight charges for transport of goods, including coal, is an option available to a rail-user. Recently too, this condition had been imposed on transport of coal to certain Power Houses and State Electricity Boards, who had accumulated substantial freight outstandings, with a view to prevent further increase in their freight outstandings. However, on receipt of representations from some Power Houses etc. the condition of pre-payment of freight charges had been withdrawn. As and when the need arises, the condition of pre-payment of freight in respect of coal for defaulting Power Houses/Electricity Boards is imposed.

Extension of Train

6802. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Howrah-Tirupathi or Puri-Tirupathi Express upto Madurai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to facilitate the passengers of West Bengal and Orissa to visit Madurai and Kanyakumari?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). Due to operational & resource constraints it is not found possible to extend Howrah-Tirupati or Puri-Tirupati Express upto Madurai. Passengers from West Bengal & Orissa travelling towards Madurai & Kanyakumari have to changeover enroute at their convenience.

Train between Trivandrum and Madras

6803. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce a new train from Trivandrum to Madras via Nagarcoil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints

Construction of R.O.B.

6804. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA KONATHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the applications pending before from private investor or from Andhra Pradesh Government for construction of Road Over Bridge

alongwith their location and cost of each such R.O.Bs. with the present status of private participation for construction of R.O.B. in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which these bridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No application is pending with Railway. Information about applications pending with Andhra Pradesh Government is not available with the Ministry of Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Meat Production

6805. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether millions of male buffalov calves are allowed to die in dairies due to starvation and neglect;

(b) whether there is vast potential for buffalov meat production to improve the economy of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to tap and promote business based on animal products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) the imbalance in male : female ratio of buffalov calves suggests that male buffalov calves are neglected.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) As per The Statement attached.

STATEMENT

(I) The Government of India is providing financial assistance to tap and promote business based on animal products through the following scheme/projects.

(i) Development of pork, sheep, goat, buffalov and poultry processing meat plants through State Cooperatives and Undertakings.

(ii) Preparation of techno-economic feasibility report on projects related to meat, meat products, carcass utilisation centres and modernisation of slaughter houses.

(iii) Training of artisans and managers in hygienic production and processing of meat and meat products.

(iv) Research and development programmes useful for commercial production, processing and export of hygienic meat and meat products.

(v) Development of technology and infrastructure for export oriented livestock product units.

(vi) Improvement/modernisation of slaughter houses, carcass utilisation centres and hide flaying units.