

of I Class A.C. Chair car coaches (Executive class), it is presently not feasible to provide such coaches on Howrah-Bokaro and Howrah-Rourkela Shatabdi Expresses.

### Contracts in Railways

2639. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of contracts were awarded by the Railway Administration on open tender system and contracts awarded on special limited tenders systems;

(b) if so, details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is a demand for investigation into the entire contract work of Gauge Conversion carried out by Indian Railways; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of Sabha.

### Teesta Torsha Express

2640. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand of the people of West Bengal to run 3141/3142 Teesta Torsha Express separately between Sealdah and Haldibari and Sealdah and New Alipurduar as the people of Haldibari do not have any other communication except this train;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) There have been some representations in this regard.

(b) to (d). Running of Teesta Express as two pairs of independent trains has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

### Railway Lines

2641. SHRI RAMDEW RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to connect the Vishrampur with Barbadih Railway Line; and

(b) if so, the time by which survey work of this Railway Line is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Train from Tatanagar to New Jalpaiguri

2642. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether North Bengal as well as North Eastern States are not connected with South Bengal;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce an express train from Tatanagar to New Jalpaiguri/Guwahati via Adra-Asansol-Durgapur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) South Bengal (Calcutta) is linked with North Eastern States/North Bengal by 3 pairs/4 pairs of daily trains respectively and 4 pairs of weekly trains.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.