

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the number of trains between Calcutta and North Bengal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) No, sir. However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities etc.

(b) Intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels including holding of daily punctuality meetings both at Divisional and Headquarter's level and Foot-Plate Inspection by Senior Officers of different Departments are undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officer's level are also launched and lacunae in the system whenever detected are dealt with.

(c) and (d) On rare occasions, trains have to be cancelled due to breaches, accidents, agitation, non-availability of rake etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Railway Line

1582. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to accord approval to Indore-Dewas-Jabalpur Railway Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work on this Railway Line is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (c) There is already BG railway line existing from Indore to Dewas. Dewas will get connected with Jabalpur by a direct BG railway line on completion of the Dewas-Maski new BG railway line which is in progress.

Pending Cases

1583. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending over 5, 10, 20 years in Allahabad and Delhi High Courts and above; and

(b) steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the expeditious disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The available information is as follows :

	Allahabad High Court (as on 30.6.94)	Delhi High Court (as on 31.12.94)
No. of cases pending	7,55,920	1,46,613
No. of cases pending for over 5 years to 10 years	2,32,596	42,144
No. of cases pending over 10 years (including 20 years and above)	1,36,650	25,424

(b) In order to consider the problem of arrears of cases in courts and find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible, a meeting of the Chief Minister and Chief Justices of the High courts was held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The resolutions adopted in the conference have been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts including the High Court of Allahabad and Delhi for necessary action. The Administration of Justice has been made a plan item, as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases.

Utilisation of Spare Land

1584. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether raising of fund by commercial utilisation of spare land by the Railways in Mumbai is under consideration of the Ministry or has been deferred; and

(b) if so, since when and the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b) : The pilot proposal formulated in November, 1991 for Mumbai involved raising of funds through utilisation of only the air space over a parcel of railway land of Bandra.

A decision on this proposal has been deferred.

[Translation]

Sand Separation Complex

1585. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a sand separation complex in collaboration with a foreign company in some of the States, especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the foreign company and the States and the sites where such complexes are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the steps taken till date in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal for setting up a Joint Venture Company by Indian Rare Earths Ltd. and Government of Kerala in collaboration with M/s. Renisons Goldfields Consolidated Ltd., a foreign company, and Chemplast Sanmar Ltd., a private company, for the exploitation of Beach sand mineral deposits in Kollam District in the State of Kerala.

(c) Discussions are being held among the parties.

[English]

Army Canteen

1586. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2874 dated August 23, 1995 and

state :

(a) whether the Inquiry Committee initiated by the AG's Branch, Army HQs, with regard to the allegations levelled against the Managing Committee of Army HQs Canteen (URC), New Delhi, have submitted its finding/interim report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main features of the report;

(c) the details of action taken by the Government against the officials involved in the case of alleged malpractices, etc.

(d) whether the Inquiry Committee did not take into account the witness of the erstwhile Chairman Managing Committee of AHQ canteen against whom allegations of corruption charges, etc. were levelled;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is a fact that this Service Officer was transferred from Delhi even without completion of his normal tenure at the HQs, New Delhi; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the date of issue of such orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (g) : The Army Hqrs. Canteen being a Regimental Institution of the Army is not a Government run Canteen. It is a privately run Canteen of the Army. No report is therefore due to Government in the normal course in this matter.

Army Headquarters (AHQ) have reported that the Inquiry Committee instituted by the AG's Branch has submitted its report to the QMG's Branch and that the Inquiry Committee found the allegations against the Canteen Management false, baseless and malicious. Army Hqrs have also reported that the Inquiry Committee having recorded the statements of all relevant witnesses did not find it necessary to record the statement of the former Chairman of the Managing Committee as no evidence of any wrong doing was forthcoming.

The former Chairman of the Canteen Management Committee being from the Army Service corps was holding the appointment of Addl. Director General Supply and Transport in the Army Headquarters. In this rank it is necessary in his career interest for him to hold the appointment of MGASC for further advancement within his Corps. When such a vacancy arose, he was transferred to that appointment on 11.10.1995.

Zonal Office in Bihar

1587. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a no Zonal office in Bihar ;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a Zonal Office in the above State; and

(c) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) There is no zonal headquarter in Bihar.

(b) and (c) : A study group constituted for examining the existing geographical distribution of zones and divisions in the wake of Project Unigauge and the construction of Konkan Railway, has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

Proposals to Western Railway

1588. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from Members of Parliament and other organisations regarding starting of some new trains, providing stoppages of some trains, renovation of some Railway Stations, to extend some trains to Okha, Porbandar and Bhavnagar on Bhavnagar Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Baroda Division on the Western Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on these proposals; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the long standing demand for construction of Bhavnagar-Tarapur Broad-Gauge Line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) From time to time, representations are being received in this regard from Members of Parliament and others including Passenger Associations.

(b) All such demands are duly examined and action as found feasible is taken. As a result, following additional train facilities have been provided on Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Vadodara divisions on Western Railway during 1995-96:-

I. New Trains : 9935/9936 Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar Express 8403/8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Jansewa Exp. (weekly) 279/280 Botad-Surendranagar Fast Passenger Memu trains on Bhilad-Surat-Bharuch-Vadodara and Vadodara-Ahmedabad sections.

II. Extensions :

Train	Upto
211/212 Fast Passenger	Rajkot
213/214 Passenger	Bhanvad
215/216 Passenger	Bhanvad
199/200 Passenger	Ambliyanan
1 JSM/2 JSM Fast Passenger	Ahmedabad
351/352 Passenger	Jetalsar

III. Stoppages :

Train	Stations
9011/9012 Gujarat Express	Umbergaon
211/212 Rajkot-Porbandar Passenger	Aliavada, Hadmatiya, Padaddhari, Jaliya Devani & Jamwanthali