

(b) and (c). No rail line have so far been converted into broad gauge in the State of Madhya Pradesh which has about 75% of its rail net work on broad gauge. However, gauge conversion work is currently in progress on Parasia-Chhindwara, Nonera-Bhind and Neemuch-Ratlam sections. The following sections have also been included in the Action Plan for gauge conversion to be taken up in the coming years :-

1. Jablapur-Gondia
2. Ratlam-Khandwa
3. Nonera-Bhind

(d) Gauge Conversion of Parasia-Chhindwara section is targetted for completion during 1995-96.

[English]

Over Bridges

3644. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the platforms of Howrah are to be connected by over-bridges for smooth movement of passengers;

(b) whether any steps have been taken so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by when it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (d). As Howrah Railway Station is a terminal station where all the platforms are connected at one end through a concourse of sufficient size, there is no proposal to construct a foot-over-bridge connecting all the platforms. However, work of provision of a foot-over-bridge connecting the Main and the South complexes, at Howrah, has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 48.95 lakh.

New Techniques

3645. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to improve the revenue earnings without resorting to fare/freight increase every year;

(b) whether there are any plans to reduce operational costs and expenditure by adopting new techniques;

(c) whether the Government intends to engage the services of any private consultancy firm to survey and suggest ways to reduce the expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). It has been the continuous endeavour on part of the

Railways to augment earnings and contain expenditure due to which the increase in fares and freights has always been less than the increase in input costs. As a results of various innovative measures taken, the Railways now plan to carry 398 Million Tonnes of freight traffic as against 318 Millions carried in 1990-91. Also due to the continuous economy drive and modern techniques adopted, the Operating Ratio which was as high as 92.0% in 1990-91 has improved to 82.6% in 1994-95.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

MRTS in Calcutta

3646. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry have formulated any scheme to expand the MRTS in and around Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Salt Lake and other areas including proposed New Calcutta are to be connected under MRTS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) initiative taken by the Ministry in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K.DHAWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

[Translation]

KVIC-Employment Scheme

3647. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch special employment programme in some selected districts of Uttarakhand in Uttar Pradesh through Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this special employment programme is a part of the target fixed by KVIC for providing employment in Uttarakhand; and

(d) if not, the details of amount sanctioned for this programme, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Action has been initiated by the KVIC to launch the District Special Employment Programme in the following Districts in Uttarakhand in Uttar Pradesh to generate employment opportunities for a maximum of 20,000 people with a total outlay of Rs. 40 crores in three years' time :

1. Almora-Pithoragarh
2. Chamauli-Uttarkashi

KVIC has already taken up 4 blocks in Uttarakhand under its 125 priority block development programme to generate employment opportunities for 4000 people by the end of 1996-97 with a total outlay of Rs. 12 crores as follows :

District	Block
Dehradun	Ukhimat
Pithoragarh	Pali
Almora	Takula
Nainital	Rudrapur

[English]

Trade of Human Organ

3648. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the eye banks in Maharashtra have requested for certain amendments in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

BOLT Scheme

3649. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways plan to relax some of the conditions in the Build Own Lease Transfer (BOLT) Scheme which has found very few takers; and

(b) if so, the Railways' latest thinking on the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). Some of the conditions related to BOLT have already been relaxed to make the scheme more attractive for the investors. Recently, 5 years Tax Holiday has been made applicable to investors for investment in Railways infrastructure under BOLT Scheme.

Essential Fittings

3650. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some trains are running without the essential fittings;

(b) whether Railway Authorities are not providing essential spare parts to the concerned departments;

(c) if so, the number of accidents took place during this year in absence of the essential fittings; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) All trains are given a thorough check before commencement of any journey. During examination the essential/safety fittings, if found defective/deficient are made good. No train is permitted to start with safety fittings deficient.

(b) Every endeavour is made by the railways to ensure adequate and timely availability of essential spare parts to concerned departments.

(c) There has been no case of Train accident during the year due to missing of essential fittings.

(d) Does not arise.

Doubling of Railway Line

3651. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double the Railway Line from Shoranur to Kuttipuram;

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be commenced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has been decided to take up construction of a new BG link between Guruvayur and Kuttipuram under BOLT (Build, Own, Lease and Transfer) Scheme. On completion of this work it will serve the purpose of doubling between Shoranur and Kuttipuram via Trichur.

Coir Board

3652. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the activities undertaken and results achieved by the Coir Board during the last three years in Kerala; and

(b) the action plan drawn up for the development of Coir industry in Kerala?