

(a) whether Government propose to form a separate zone by including metre gauge lines of Rajasthan and Gujarat States; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Replacement of Steam Locomotives on Dhaulpur-Tantpur N.G. Line

4262. SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace steam locomotives with diesel locomotives on bhaulpur Tantpur narrow gauge line; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All N.G. steam locomotives on Indian Railways are likely to be replaced by diesel engines by 1995-96, subject, however, to availability of funds and manufacturing capacity in Railway Production Units.

Chairman-Cum-Managing Directors belonging to SC/ST in Public Sector Undertakings

4263. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central public sector undertakings at present; and

(b) the number of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). At present there are 239 Central Public Sector Undertakings. Four Managing Directors belong to SC/ST.

Passenger facilities at Khagaria Station

4264. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum was submitted to Government in December, 1989 for providing facilities to the passengers at Khagaria railway station, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A memorandum from Shri Ram Sharan Yadav, M.P. has been received.

(b) The Railways are examining the feasibility of provision the Railway facilities at Khagaria listed in the memorandum.

[English]

Running time of Trains

4265. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the running time of trains has not been reduced despite replacement of diesel engines by electric engines; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken or reduction in running time of trains?