

dite execution of these gauge conversion projects is to make adequate provision for these schemes within the Plan outlay for Railways.

[Translation]

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**Loss in Eastern Coalfield Unit of Coal India Limited**

3198. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfield unit of the Coal India Limited is running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Eastern Coalfield Limited suffered a loss of Rs. 142.19 crores and Rs 48.74 cores respectively. During 1988-89 according to audited accounts of Coal India Limited, Eastern Coalfields Limited earned a profit of Rs. 33.75 crores after Coal Price Regulation Accounts (CPRA). Before CPRA, it suffered a loss of Rs. 129.58 crores in 1988-89.

The main reasons for losses are failure to achieve targetted production and increase in the cost on account of the implementation of National Coal Wage Agreement IV.

Following steps are being taken for improving performance of losing mines:

1. Rationalisation of manpower.
2. Redeployment of manpower.
3. Training for skill upliftment.

4. Voluntary retirement scheme.

5. Improving productivity.

6. Increasing production of superior grades of coal, if available.

7. Intensive monitoring of identified mines.

[English]

**Restoration of Alarm Chain**

3199. SHRI L. V. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of deaths due to fire on 16 April, 1990 in running train No. 383 Up Mokamah-Arrah occurred due to non-functioning of alarm chain in the train; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to restore alarm chains in running trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) According to the preliminary report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle, who conducted the inquiry, the train was stopped shortly after the fire broke out, but the fire had engulfed the coach rapidly by then thereby resulting in heavy casualties.

(b) The alarm chain apparatus in some passenger carrying trains (including the train under reference) having high incidence of alarm chain pulling and misuse thereof is blanked off under the provisions of the Railways Act.

**Shuttle Train Between Tuni and Visakhapatnam**

3200. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA KON-ATHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce shuttle train between Tuni and Visakhapatnam (South Central Railway), Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the South Central Railway have any proposal to introduce new trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Khalilabad-Balrampur Rail Line**

3202. SHRI RAM PRASAD CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey of Khalilabad, Basi Dumriyaganj, Utraul and Balrampur during 1977-78;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to lay railway line on Dumriyangaj-Balrampur via Khalilabad route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the survey was carried out in 1979.

(b) The cost of construction of the line at the then prevailing price level was estimated at Rs. 16.17 crores. Anticipated return was 4.08%

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Unmanned Railway Crossing in Madhya Pradesh**

3203. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossing in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of accidents on unmanned railway crossing during the last three years in Central Railway, Western Railway and South Eastern Railway; and

(c) whether the unmanned level crossing in the district of Khargone and Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh are proposed to be converted into manned crossings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) There are 1710 unmanned level crossings, which exclude cattle and canal crossings.

(b) The details of accidents are as follows: