

(b) It has been decided to instal diesel generating sets of 10-12 MW capacity for meeting the power demands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Techno-economic appraisal of the scheme has been completed by Central Electricity Authority. Subject to the availability of funds, the scheme is expected to commence generation by end of 1986-87.

Abolition of Contract Catering and providing Railways own Catering on all trains

2648. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the catering contractors granted contract on Tinsukia Mail and Rajdhani Express ;

(b) whether the contract catering has been the monopoly of few contractors in the past few years ;

(c) whether Government propose to abolish the contract catering system by providing Railways own catering on all trains ;

(d) if so, by what time ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Catering contract on 155/156 Tinsukia Mail was awarded to M/s. P.R. Catering Co. from July, 1978, who have not yet vacated the Pantry Car even after expiry of the tenure of the contract on the basis of a Court injunction obtained by them. The injunction is still to be vacated. On Rajdhani Express, Railways are having departmental catering arrangements.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. It is not feasible at present.

Railway Holiday Homes

2649. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Holiday Homes of the railways, State-wise ;

(b) the number of new Holiday Homes built during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the criterion laid down for allotment of the Holiday Homes to different categories of the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Doubling of Rail Lines between Patna and Gaya

2650. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to lay double rail lines between Patna and Gaya keeping in view the large number of foreign and domestic tourists at Gaya which is a famous place of pilgrimage in Bihar ;

(b) whether Government propose to start work on the approved project of laying Barauni-Katihar broad gauge line this year;

(c) if so, the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) A survey for the augmentation of line capacity in the Patna area is in progress. A decision on the project will be taken after completion of the survey, and examination of the report, subject to the availability of funds.

(b) and (c). Conversion of Barauni-Katihar MG section into BG has since been completed and opened to traffic in October, 1984. The conversion is estimated to cost about Rs. 53.92 crores.

(d) Does not arise.