

Rail-cum-steamer service from Bhagalpur to Bilapur

1396. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have entered into a deal with private steamer owner and have suspended Rail-cum-steamer service from Bhagalpur-Barari-Mahadeopur Ghat-Bilapur ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the reasons for this change ; and

(d) whether the local population has started Rail-Roko agitation against this change ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) The Railways have not entered into any deal with private steamer owners. The ferry service plying between Bararighat and Mahadeopurghat was discontinued with effect from 8.7.1986 in view of poor traffic and earnings and uneconomical cost of operation. However, alternative ferry service licensed by the State Government is available to meet the traffic requirement.

The train services between Bhagalpur and Barari on the South bank of river Ganga were cancelled from 9.9.1986 as good road and adequate road transport services were available. The train services from Thanabihpur to Mahadeopur on the North bank of river Ganga are still in operation.

(d) No 'Rail-Roko' agitation has been reported.

Plan for Increasing Production of Inland Water Vessels

1397. DR. D. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any specific place has been formulated for increasing the production of inland water vessels to increase the inland water transport of men and material ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) An outlay of Rs. 24.67 crores has been earmarked in the Seventh Five Year Plan for modernisation and augmenting the shipbuilding and ship repair capacity particularly for inland vessels, of the Rajabagan Dock-yard of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Calcutta. Further, an outlay of Rs. 4.00 crores has been earmarked in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the on going scheme of grant of interest subsidy to IWT entrepreneurs for purchase of new inland water vessels.

Divisional Headquarter at Purna Junction

1398. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a consistent demand from the people of Marathwada for creation of Divisional Headquarters at Purna Junction of Hyderabad-Manmad to look after the railway functioning and the broad gauge work in this region ;

(b) whether the infrastructure like the availability of land at a cheaper rate vis-a-vis other places, staff quarters and locoshed are available there ; and

(c) if so, the decision of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) A demand for formation of a Divisional headquarters at Purna was received in the past. Proposal was examined but was not found feasible.

Central Port Authority and Ports Development Fund

1399. SHRI SRI HARI RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has since been taken to set up a Central Port Authority Ports Development Fund to streamline the functioning of the various ports in the country ; and