

Development of Inland Waterways

3527. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the rich potential and the cheap cost of the water transport in the country in artificial lakes formed by impounding of water, after the erection of huge dams in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in States like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for the development of inland waterways; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken during the remaining years of the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) . Except the National Water ways, the responsibility for development of inland waterways rests with the State Governments . No proposal has been received from any State Government, about the scheme for inland navigation in artificial lakes.

No study to assess the potential of water transport in artificial lakes formed by construction of dams has been carried out.

On-Going Railway Projects

3528. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the on-going projects had to be slowed down on account/non-acquisition/delay in acquisition of land during the Sixth and the Seventh Plans;

(b) if so, the names of the projects zone-wise, along with the impact of the delay in terms of time and cost over run;

(c) whether in some cases even the tenders for the construction work had to be cancelled on account of the failures of

the State Governments to provide land well in time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to overcome the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names of on-going New Line Projects, Zone-wise, are given in the Railway Budget, with details of cost, expenditure and allotments of funds. Action for acquisition of land for these projects is initiated according to allotment of funds made for each project.

Acquisition of land for various projects is in different stages of progress. It is not possible to estimate the cost and time over-runs of the projects on account of delay in land acquisition alone.

(c) and (d). At times it becomes necessary to terminate the contracts due to non-availability of the requisite land in time. Liaison is maintained with the State Governments so as to minimise delay in the acquisition of land.

Conversion Projects

3529. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stones of a number of conversion projects from Narrow Gauge/Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge were laid by the Prime Minister /Railway Minister during the last 15 years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present progress on each one of these projects and the likely dates for their completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as under:-