

**Extension of Railway Line from Saraighat to Guwahati and Noonmati**

8307. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the existing Saraighat-Noonmati broad gauge railway line upto Guwahati along the National Highway bypass; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which a final decision will be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Opening of Regional Office of Punjab National Bank in Himachal Pradesh**

8308. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 3 March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 1307 regarding opening of regional offices of banks and state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken any decision for the sanction and creation of a regional office of the Punjab National Bank with headquarters at Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 1989-90;

(b) if so, the date on which decision regarding this regional office was taken and the position on date; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the regional office would be sanctioned and opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has allowed the Punjab National Bank, on 12th April, 1989, to open a Regional Office at Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. Punjab National Bank is taking further action to open this office.

**Conversion of Latur Miraj Railway Line**

8309. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Latur-Miraj narrow-gauge line into broad-gauge;

(b) if so, by when the conversion work is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). A survey for conversion from NG to BG of Miraj-Latur line and its extension to Latur Road was undertaken in 1975-76. The project was found to be financially unremunerative. There is, therefore, no proposal to take up this conversion.

**Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Madras**

8310. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?