

Quota of Berths at Visakhapatnam

4236. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow travelling from Visakhapatnam to Vijayawada and vice versa by Coramandal Super Fast Express and to issue tickets for this purpose;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to increase quota of berths for Visakhapatnam in 34 UP Mail, Coramandal Super Fast Express and Godavery Express trains;

(c) whether Government also propose to introduce reservation of berths for 34 UP

Mail and 45 East Coast express for this station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to increase the quota at Vishakapatnam by 3/4 Mail (there is no train as 34 UP Mail), 141/142 Coramandal Express and 7 Godavery Express.

(c) and (d). The following reservation quotas are already being operated at Vishakapatnam by 3/4 train and 45 East Coast Express:

Train	IAC	AC2T	1st Class	IInd Class
1	2	3	4	5
3 Up Howrah-Madras Mail	2	10	12	25
4 Dn Madras-Howrah Mail	8	3	6	7
45 East Coast Express	—	—	—	51

Assistance by Nationalised Banks to Agricultural Labourers

4237. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual amount loaned to the agricultural labourers by the nationalised banks during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the rate of interest charged on these loans and the percentage of recovery of the loans;

(c) whether Government propose to waive the recovery of the balance amount of the loans give to the agricultural labourers, considering the unhealthy economic condi-

tions and their inability to repay the amount of loans.

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(e) if answer to (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that their present data reporting system does not generate the information in respect of bank credit to agricultural labourers. However, the data in respect of out-standing advances to agriculture by public sector banks for 3 year period ended December 1988 is as under:

(Amt. in Rs. crores)

(A/cs. in lakh)

Year ended	No. of A/cs.	Balance outstanding
December 1986	168.58	1137.91
December 1987	188.07	11712.50
December 1988	203.87	13507.87

(b) The rates of interest for agricultural advances at present are as under:

S.T. loan for Agriculture Range of Advances	Rate of Interest % P.A
a) Upto Rs 7500/-	10.00
b) Over Rs. 7500/- and upto Rs 15000/-	11.50
c) Over Rs 15000/- and upto Rs 25000/-	12.00
d) over Rs. 25000/-	14.00 to 15.50

for loans for a period of not less than 3 years the interest rate is as under:

For minor irrigation and land development 10% P.A. and for other purposes to small farmers 10% P.A. and to other farmers at 12.5% P.A.

The position regarding recovery in respect of direct agricultural advance for all Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks for the three year period ended June 1987 is as under:

Year ended June	% of Recovery to Demand
1985	54.2
1986	56.6
1987	57.1

(c) to (e). It has always been the consistent endeavour of the Banks that generalised waivers of write-offs of loan obligations, without regard to the merits of each case harm the credit system and are not in the best interests of the poor. However, necessary provisions already exist for providing relief to various categories of borrowers in case of natural calamities and other adverse exigencies and these are being invoked by banks whenever deemed necessary.

Railway Line Between Hassan and Tiptur

4238. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken for laying a new broad gauge railway line between Hassan and Tiptur;