

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways as a policy have decided to progressively replace steam locomotives by diesel/electric locomotives and all steam locomotives will be phased out by the year 2000.

#### **Improved Rail Services in Adivasi Areas**

3562. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail services in the Adivasi areas in the country and particularly in Gujarat are not sufficient to meet the increasing goods and passenger traffic and most of the people have to use the services of road transport; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the rail services in the these areas for the quick transportation of their products and also to improve the passenger services?

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

(b) Continuous efforts are made to improve the services keeping in view the traffic and resources.

[*Translation*]

#### **Muvattupuzha Irrigation Project of Kerala**

3563. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work on Muvattupuzha Irrigation Project (Kerala) has been affected due to paucity of funds;

(b) the present stage of the project and quantum of funds already utilised by the State Government;

(c) the original cost of the project and the revised estimate as a result of cost escalation; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for its early completion and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). An expenditure of about Rs. 32 crores has been incurred upto March, 1989 as against the approved cost of Rs. 48 crores and the latest estimated cost of about Rs. 68 crores. The Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 6 crores for 1989-90. Major portion of the dam and main canal is likely to be completed during 1989-90. The project is expected to be completed during the VIII Plan.

[*English*]

#### **Export of Iron Ore Through Paradeep Port**

3567. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) has taken steps to increase the export of iron ore;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the export of iron ore through Paradeep Port in Orissa; and

(c) the total tonnage of iron ore procured by MMTC from different iron ore mines of Orissa for export purpose during the last three years (year-wise)?