

(e) if so, the likely date by which the decision would be taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) to (f). The fares are charged on Hill/Ghat Sections on the basis of inflated distance for charge due to the high cost of operation and maintenance on these sections. From 1976, the distance for charge for First Class passenger traffic over the Kalka-Simla Section was reduced from three to two times the actual distance. This step was necessitated in view of the fact that substantial increases earlier effected in First class fares had led to diversion of this traffic to road thereby resulting in under-utilisation of this accommodation. It was considered that reduction in First Class Fares would attract more passengers from road to rail thus minimising the proportion of losses incurred by the Railway. In the case of Second Class, accommodation was fully utilised and hence there was no need to reduce the fares in Second Class for attracting further traffic.

At present, there is no proposal under consideration in regard to reduction of Second Class fare to twice the actual distance as in the case of First Class fare.

Railway lines surveyed/inaugurated

4646. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the main objectives of the Railways Five-Year Plan 1978—83 and the 15-year revised corporate plan up to 1992-93 is "Development of Backward areas by providing new Railway Lines subject to the availability of financial resources";

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railway Board for the provision of new Railway lines in the backward areas especially the hill states/regions;

(c) the names of the new Railway lines which have been surveyed/inaugurated with this end in view, since the inception of the Railway Five Year Plan;

(d) the latest progress achieved in each case; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKURJUN): (a) and (b). Yes. One of the corporate objectives of the Indian Railways is to provide adequate rail transport for both passengers and goods, to meet demand in such areas for which Railway operation confers optimum benefit to the economy, having due regard to Government's policy of development of backward areas.

The National Transport Policy Committee appointed in April 1978 to evolve a rational policy for construction of new lines including lines in backward areas has recently submitted its Report which is being examined by the Government.

(c) to (e). The names of the new Railway lines which have been

surveyed/inaugurated or are in progress since 1978-79 are as under:

Name	Length in km.	Remarks
1. Rohtak Bhiwani (New Line)	49.3	Opened on 3-6-1980
2. Kapadvanj Modasa (BG) (New Line)	60.50	Present progress 7 per cent
3. Rampur-New Haldwani (BG) (New Line)	78.43	Present progress 0.5 per cent
4. Jagadhri Paonta Rajban (Survey for New Line)		Present progress 37 per cent
5. Kalka Parwanoo (Survey for New Line)		Survey for new line has been included in the Budget 1980-81
6. Nangal Dam Talwara (Survey for New Line)		Updating of carrier survey has been included in the Budget 1980-81.

Wage disparity Foreign Missions

4647. SHRI BRAJI MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether racial and colour discrimination are being practised in foreign Missions in India in employment with unequal wage for equal work and Indian employees in foreign Missions are subjected to such treatment:

(b) whether it is a fact that Indians employed in Japanese and Bonn Missions are getting less wages than their counterparts; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove this racial and colour discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Government is not aware of any specific complaints regarding racial or colour discrimination being practised by foreign Missions in India. As for wages, these are negotiated directly between the employee and the employer.

(b) No such instances have been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

Arms supply to India's Neighbouring Countries

4648. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that arms and ammunition are being supplied to our neighbouring countries by some foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps so far taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Government of India's attention has been drawn to reports about arms supplies to Pakistan by the United States and China as well as to reports about significant advances in recent months in China-U.S. relations.

There are reports that the offer of military supplies by the United States has been rejected by Pakistan.

Government have conveyed their concern to the U.S. Government at the highest level on U.S. intentions to supply arms to Pakistan. We believe that there is better appreciation of India's views in this matter.