(घ) उक्त लाइन को कब तक दोहरी लाइन में परिवर्तित कर दिया जायेगा?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) से (घ). किउल-भागलपुर खंड में 51 कि.मी. दोहरी लाइन बिछाने के कार्य को 6.80 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से 1980-81 के बजट में शामिल कर लिया गया है ।

आराह से सासाराम तक रेल-सेवा

2079. **श्री रामविलास पासवान** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आराह से सासाराम तक कोई सीधा रेल सेवा नहीं है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो आराह से सासाराम तक सीधी रेल-सेवा कब तक उपलब्ध करा दी जायेगी; और

(ग) यदि नही तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) फरवरी, 1978 से, जब आरा-सासाराम लाइट रेलवे ने इसका संचालन समाप्त किया और कंपनी का ऐच्छिक परिसमापन किया गया, आरा और सासाराम के बीच कोई सीधी रेल सेवा नही रही है ।

(ख) और (ग). 1980-81 के बजट में 1 लाख रु. के प्रारम्भिक परिव्यय सहित 5 लाख रु. की प्रत्याशित लागत से, आरा और सासाराम के बीच एक बडी लाइन के लिए प्रारंभिक इंजीनियरी एवं यातायात सर्वेक्षण को शामिल किया गया है । सर्वेक्षण कार्य संसद में रेल बजट पास हो जाने और अनुमान मंजूर हो जाने के बाद, प्रारम्भ किया जायेगा ।

Late Running of Trains

2080. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the late running of trains has become a regular feature of the Indian Railways in recent times, particularly since the present Government has come into power; and

(b) the proposals of Government to regularise the railway system of our country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The punctuality performance of Mail/Express trains 'Not losing time' which was about 84.0 per cent by end of 1979, had improved to around 90.0 per cent during the month of March, 1980. Punctuality of trains during April and May, 1980 has been slightly affected due to increased incidences of alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, public demonstrations, accidents, excessive summer heat and water shortage in many parts of the country aggravated by the power shortage In addition, there are detentions also caused by reasons which are within the control of the Railways, such as, engine failure, signal failure/defects, and other operating failures.

(b) The Railways have been asked to pay special attention to the punctual running of trains and arrange for day-to-day monitoring of important Mail/Express trains not only at the field level, but also at the Zonal Head Quarters level. Avoidable detentions are taken up immediately and remedial/punitive action taken to improve the running of trains. General Managers have also been instructed that slackness of staff in this matter should be dealt with firmly and promptly. Liaison is also being maintained with the concerned State Government to check the incidence of alarm chain pulling and dis-connection of hose-pipes by miscreants.

Visit of Foreign Dignatories

2081. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign dignatories|delegations who visited India during the last 3 months; and