

Goods Terminus at Sankrail

3491. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to have a new passenger terminus for the S. E. Railway at Shalimar instead of Hansa and a new goods terminus also at Sankrail;

(b) if so, the year or years when these proposals were accepted; and

(c) how far work on these projects have materialised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Yes. The work relating to the acquisition of land for the proposed new goods terminal at Sankrail was sanctioned in 1978-79 at a cost of Rs. 184.71 lakhs. Provision of three lines with OHE at Sankrail has been approved in the Budget for 1979-80 at a cost of Rs. 138.93 lakhs. Government of West Bengal have agreed to acquire the land under Section 3(i) of the Land Acquisition Act without waiting for exemption from Urban Land Ceilings Act.

Acquisition of land for location of coaching terminal facilities at Padmapukur has been approved in the Budget for 1980-81 at a cost of Rs. 46.83 lakhs and land plans are being prepared.

Increasing Number of Beggars in Trains

3492. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of beggars in running trains are increasing and the passengers have to face considerable inconvenience; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The reports received from the Zonal Railways reveal that there is some increase in the number of beggars in trains and at railway stations.

(b) Beggary is prohibited at the station premises and in trains. To curb the nuisance, special drives are launched against beggary with the assistance of Government Railway Police. In addition, checks are conducted by the Ticket Checking staff and other railway officials. The travelling public are also requested on public address system to refrain from giving alms. While the railways make all efforts to eradicate begging, the malady is, however, much deeper and poverty coupled with public sympathy makes it difficult for the Railways to deal with the problem effectively.

Admissions in Medical Colleges to the children of Handicapped people

3493. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended facilities in the matter of admissions to the medical colleges to the children of handicapped people; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the medical colleges, State-wise as well as the number of children of handicapped people getting education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.