

Over-Bridges in Maharashtra

1503. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals regarding Railway Projects received from the Government of Maharashtra pending for consideration by the Government;

(b) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) the details of projects cleared during the last two months; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to be taken for the construction of overbridges on rail-crossings in the State to avoid traffic jams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No proposals are pending with the Government

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following new projects in Maharashtra have been included recently in the Budget, 1996-97 :

Doublings

1. Panvel-Roha - Land Acquisition
2. Sewagram (Wardha East) - Chitoda

(d) Railways consider replacement of busy level crossings having traffic density of 1 lakh or more TVUs (Train Vehicle Units, a figure obtained by multiplying the number of trains by the number of road vehicle units passing the level crossing per day) by Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis on the request of State Governments who have to bear their share of the cost.

[Translation]

Ticketless Travelling

1504. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ticketless travellers apprehended during 1995-96 till date.

(b) the amount of penalty recovered from these travellers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the ticketless travelling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). During the year 1995-96 and from April to June, 1996, 91.42 lakh persons were detected travelling without tickets and/or with improper tickets and a sum of Rs. 89.15 crores was realised as fare and penalty from them.

(c) In order to curb the evil of ticketless/irregular travel, special and surprise checks are being regularly

conducted by mobilising a large number of ticket checking staff and officers in association with Special Railway Magistrates, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force. In addition, massive concentrated checks like fortress checks, ambush checks, 96 hour drives are undertaken regularly. The minimum penalty for ticketless travel has also been enhanced in the Railways Act, 1989 from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 50/-.

[English]

Maintenance of Railway Platforms

1505. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have leased out a number of railway platforms for maintenance to the private parties; and

(b) if so, the names of the stations where platforms have been leased out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No separate contracts have been allotted for maintenance of railway platforms. However, the scheme of beautification/maintenance of stations in lieu of sole advertising rights is in operation at the following stations:

Jalgaon, Masjid, Dadar, Ghatkopar, Ludhiana, Jullandhar City, Amritsar, Jammu Tawi, Saharanpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Jalpaiguri, Madras Central, Chrompet, Kumbakonam, Mamblam, Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Hubli, Kharagpur, Bandra, Khar Road, Andheri, Kandivli, Borivli, Surat.

Flyover at Tamblai Railway Station

1506. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for the construction of a flyover at Tamblai Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Sir. There is no proposal from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

First Class Coaches

1507. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of trains in which the First Class coaches are not available;

(b) whether the Government servants are being put to avoidable inconvenience due to non availability of such coaches in the fast moving trains?

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to provide First Class Coaches with each and every train from which these had been detached during the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Indian Railways are running about 3800 Suburban trains in 5 Cities and of these, trains in Delhi, Calcutta and Secunderabad do not carry first class accommodation. On non-suburban sector, about 3950 trains are running and of these, only a few trains carry first class accommodation are voluminous and are not readily available.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to carry more number of passengers per train and per coach in more comfort and as a measure of coping with growth in traffic, railways had stopped manufacturing First Class Coaches. Instead, AC 2 tier and AC 3 tier coaches are already being provided in more and more trains.

Replacement of Bogies

1508. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for allotting new bogies to replace the existing old bogies of the long distance trains on a priority basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Coaches are allotted to the Zonal Railways on the basis of requirement. New Coaches are utilised on premier trains and it is a continuous process carried out in a phased manner. During 1995-96, about 15 pairs of long distance Mail/Express trains were provided with new coaches.

Stoppage at New Bongaigaon

1509. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saraighat Express from Howrah does not have any stoppage at New Bongaigaon station;

(b) whether there is demand for stoppage of the train at New Bongaigaon; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Examined but not found feasible.

[Translation]

Halt at Bariyarpur

1510. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals for halt of Mujjafarpur-Bhagalpur City Express at Bariyarpur Station on Eastern Railway for providing two AC sleepers and four second class sleepers in Vikramshila, and reservation of quota for two A.C. sleepers and two second class sleepers in Farakka Express have been approved; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement to said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Instructions have been given to Eastern Railway to provide an additional quota of two sleeper class berths at Bariyarpur Station by Vikramshila/Magadh Express. Due to limited availability of reserved accommodation and full utilisation of quotas at the existing quota holding stations, there is no proposal at present to allot A.C. Sleeper quota by this train and also additional sleeper class quota by Farakka Express train.

[English]

Construction Activities in Coastal Areas

1511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has banned construction activities in the Coastal areas within 500 metres of the high water mark.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor.

(c) whether the court has also directed the Union Government to set up a National Coastal Management Authority as an apex body to monitor the action of Coastal Management Bodies at the State level.

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) In the order dated 18th April, 1996 in civil writ petition No. 664 of 1993, the Supreme Court has directed that pending finalisation of Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs), interim orders passed by the court on 12.12.1994 and 09.03.1995 shall continue to operate. In the interim order dated 12.12.1994, the Court has directed all the coastal States/Union Territories not to permit the setting up of any industry or construction of any type in the area at least upto 500 metres from the sea water at the maximum High Tide Line. But, subsequently in another interim order dated 09.03.1995 the court has modified