

Mumbai-Amritsar Paschim Express has been allotted at Vapi station. The quota available at other stations is adequate to meet the present level of demand.

Night Train Between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer

1523 COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the night passenger train between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer has not been restored so far as the metre gauge track was converted into broad gauge in April, 1995 between these two stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce an overnight passenger train between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer during 1996-97

Delegation of Powers under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

1524. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have delegated Region-wise powers to Chief Conservator of Forests for giving approval for diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. for non-forestry purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and not to the State Governments;

(b) whether several State Governments have urged the Union Government to delegate these powers directly to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Chief Conservators of Forests (Central), Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment and Forests, have been given powers to decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except regularisation of encroachments and mining.

(b) and (c). Some State Governments represented before Sarkaria Commission for delegation of powers under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on the grounds that even small schemes got delayed while awaiting clearance from the Central Government under the Act.

(d) To cut short the delay in processing of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation)

Act, 1980, revised guidelines have been issued on 25.10.92 which *interalia* include delegation of powers to Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. except regularisation of encroachments and mining. They have also been delegated the power of initial processing of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha. in consultation with State Advisory Groups.

Broad Gauge Conversion in Orissa

1525 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals for Khurda Road-Bolangir new broad gauge rail link and gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge section in Orissa have been approved

(b) if so the details thereof and the amount sanctioned by the Government for these work; and

(c) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) The works have been included in the Budget 94-95 and 95-96 at costs of Rs. 353.38 crores and Rs. 57.95 crore respectively. Khurda-Bolangir is expected to be completed in the 10th Plan period while Rupsa-Bangriposi Gauge Conversion is expected to be completed in the 9th Plan period.

[Translation]

Manufacturing Capacity of Coaches

1526 DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the category-wise manufacturing capacity of Coaches in the country

(b) the category wise number of coaches manufactured during the last five years upto March, 1996; and

(c) the details of category-wise coaches supplied as against the demand of coaches by the various Zonal Railways, zone-wise during the aforesaid period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are four Units manufacturing coaches in the country - two in Railway Sector, viz. Integral Coach Factory and Rail Coach Factory and two in Public Sector, viz. M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. and M/s. Jessops and Company Ltd.