

(b) the number of passenger and goods trains so far brought under diesel traction; and

(c) what are the details regarding the targets for the year 1981-82?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Diesel locomotives are more efficient than steam locomotives as their hauling capacity is greater, they are capable of achieving higher speeds and acceleration is better. The servicing requirement for diesel locomotive is very much less than that for steam which require frequent halts for watering and coaling. The range of operation of diesels is also very much giving greater operating flexibility permitting through running of goods trains. Thus dieselisation contributes to considerable saving in line capacity, coal consumption and improved operation. Moreover, steam traction becomes progressively uneconomical in areas with higher traffic densities.

(b) As on 1-11-81, 280 BG diesel locomotives and 102 MG diesel locomotives are allotted for use on Passenger services. Freight traffic is catered for by 1172 BG diesel and 350 MG diesel locomotives. The actual number of goods trains worked with these locomotives would depend on pattern of traffic, trailing load, etc. However, 64 per cent on BG and 66 per cent on MG of freight train Km in 1980-81 were hauled by diesel traction.

(c) The additional diesel main line locomotives which become available during 1981-82 would be deployed for passenger and goods trains depending on operating need, urgency, etc. In this regard, 87 BG diesels, 15 MG diesels and 7 NG diesels are scheduled for manufacture in 1981-82.

Stocks of Iron Ore at Paradip Port

4203. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of iron ore which have been accumulated at Paradip Port of Orissa at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the port authority has refused to accept any further iron ore transported by trucks from Daitori and other iron ore mines of Orissa;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to receive the iron ore transported by trucks from different feeder mines to Paradip?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) There is a stock of about six lakh tonnes of iron ore at Paradip Port at present.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Paradip Port is in a position to receive iron ore brought from different mines.

Creation of Metre Gauge Zone

4204. SHRI MOHAN LAL SUKHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal regarding creation of Metre Gauge Zone is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b).