

made for widening 48 Kms. from single lane to double lane in the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85). The widening of the remaining single lane length to two lanes would depend on availability of resources and inter-se priority of availability of National High way works in the country as a whole.

Police protection in Jhelum Express

3967. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no police protection is provided in Jhelum Express beyond Manmad; and

(b) what steps are taken to protect passenger in this train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) For providing Police protection to railway passengers travelling by Jhelum Express, an armed escort consisting of 1 Head Constable and 3 Constables is escorting Jhelum Express between Manmad to Pune and vice versa. 2 armed constables are escorting this train from Manmad to Bhusawal and vice versa.

Railway tracks in Orissa

3968. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa lags much behind the other States in transportation;

(b) the length of railway track in Orissa;

(c) what is the all India average in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Railway transportation facilities are provided according to needs of the area and subject to the priorities and availability of funds.

(b) the length of Railway track of Orissa as on 31-3-81 was 1981 (route kilometers).

(c) The All India average of railway route kilometerage per thousand square kilometres of area is 18.63.

(d) The following new lines are under construction in Orissa:—

(i) Jakhapura-Banspani new BG rail link project (176 kms.), the 1st phase of which from Jakhapura to Daitari has already been opened as a siding. Final Location Survey for the 2nd phase between Daitari and Keonjhar is in progress.

(2) Koraput-Rayagada new BG rail link (174.32 kms.). The construction of Koraput-Machhiguda section (23 kms.) is being taken up in the 1st phase. Final Location Survey for the remaining length is in progress.

In addition, Engineering-cum-traffic Survey for construction of a new BG rail link between Sambalpur and Talcher (157.68 kms. has been recently carried out. The project report is under finalisation. Further action will be taken on receipt of project report which will be carefully examined both with regard to the technical feasibility and economic viability. The decision on construction of the new line will be taken, if necessary, in consultation with the Planning Commission, depending upon the availability of funds for new lines.