

(c) The Railways freight share is about 40% of the total land freight. The decline in the Railways freight market share can be attributed largely to the rapid growth of the road network which has penetrated even the remotest areas thereby expanding the roads' market share, whereas the Railways development has been affected due to the sharp reduction in the budgetary support

Train from Surat to Patna

714. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no direct train from Surat to Patna.

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce a direct train between these stations:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no direct train between Surat and Patna.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational and resource constraints

[Translation]

Reservation Centres

715 KUMARI UMA BHARATI .
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the number of railway reservation centres in the country is very less and the public is facing great inconvenience as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to open more reservation centres, and

(c) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The facilities for making reservations on trains have been provided at all stations over the Indian Railways where reservation quotas are available. At other stations, where trains having reserved accommodation stop, advance reservation may be made by sending messages to the stations where such quotas are available. Over 92% of the reservation workload of the Indian Railways has been computerised covering 275 locations and Annual Plan of 1996-97 provides for coverage of 55 additional locations. Provision and extension of reservation facilities at additional stations and other locations is a continuous process

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Andhra Pradesh

716. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of proposals for conversion of Railway Line from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge in Andhra Pradesh are awaiting clearance from the Government;

(b) if so, details of each project alongwith the allocation of funds separately.

(c) whether any new projects for conversion have been undertaken;

(d) if so, the details thereof and criteria being adopted for their selection, and

(e) the time by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) and (e) Details of projects, currently in progress in Andhra Pradesh, together with their targetted date of completion are given below :

S No	Project	Target Date for Completion
1	Dronachellam-Kurnool-Mehboobnagar	1997-98
2	Nandyal-Guntakal	1996-97
3	Guntakal-Kalluru	1997-98
4	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	1998-99
5	Mudkhed-Adilabad (Partly in Andhra Pradesh)	1997-98

All the above projects have been taken up on consideration of development of alternative routes and generation of additional carrying capacity.

[Translation]

Cow Slaughter

717 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the incident of cow slaughter, agitation broke out in the Patel Nagar area of Dehradun in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) if so, the number of persons including police officers/workers killed/injured therein; and

(c) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHF MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House

[English]

Expansion of Fertilizer Plants

718 SHRI K. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to expand some fertilizer plants in the country

(b) if so, the name of the plants identified for expansion during the Eighth Five Year Plan and

(c) the extent to which the capacity of these fertilizer plants is likely to be increased on completion of the expansion programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) As per the Industrial Policy Statement issued by the Government on 24.7.1991, the fertilizer industry has been delicensed. An entrepreneur is free to set up a fertilizer project anywhere in the country, subject to environmental clearance. However, the Government provides the following facilities for augmenting indigenous fertilizer production —

(i) The domestic urea industry is being supported through the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme

(ii) Nil customs duty is payable on imports of capital goods for the fertilizer sector

(iii) Indian suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects are entitled for deemed export benefits, provided such supplies are made under the procedure of International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

(iv) Liquid petroleum products being used as feedstock and fuel in fertilizer plants are supplied at a concessional price

(v) A maximum concession of 3% in the rate of interest is payable on long-term loans raised by a fertilizer unit from the financial institutions or from the Government subject to certain specified conditions

(vi) Assistance is provided to fertilizer units for securing linkages of feedstock, fuel and rail movement.

(vii) Imports of intermediates required for domestic production of fertilizers e.g. ammonia, phosphoric acid etc. are permitted without payment of customs duty.

(viii) The production in sick fertilizer units is sustained through the following measures:—

(a) Budgetary support to cover the cash losses/working capital requirement of PSUs and cater to their essential investment requirement, and

(b) Formulation of comprehensive package for their rehabilitation.

(b) and (c) The following nine projects are presently under implementation for increasing the production capacity of fertilizers in the country:—

S.No.	Name of the Company/Cooperative	Location	Estimated capital cost (Rs. Crores)	Product	Incremental Production envisaged (in lakh MTPA)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO)	Aonia (U.P.)	960.00	Urea	7.26
2	IFFCO	Kalol (Gujarat)	119.00	Urea	1.50
3	IFFCO	Phulpur (U.P.)	993.00	Urea	7.26
4	National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL)	Vijaipur (M.P.)	987.30	Urea	7.26
5	Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)	Manali (Madras)	487.30	Urea NPK	0.76 1.84
6	Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.	Kakinada (A.P.)	969.98	Urea	4.95