

A. C. GEORGE) : An understanding has been reached between the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council of India, Bombay and the HUNGAROTEX, Hungary, whereby the HUNGAROTEX would be prepared to supply of foreign cotton to India and pay charges for conversion into textiles which will be exported to Hungary. Follow-up action to negotiate and finalize the details of the transaction are in progress.

SURVEY FOR NEW BROAD GAUGE LINE FROM KARUR-DINDIGUL TO MADURAI AND CONVERSION TO BROAD GAUGE LINE FROM MADURAI-MANIYACHI TO TUTICORIN (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)

1328. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engineering and traffic survey reports for a new broad-gauge Rail line from Karur-Dindigul to Madurai and conversion of metre-gauge line from Madurai-Maniyachi to Tuticorin and Tirunelveli into broad-gauge have been finalised; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) According to survey reports, this project is about 324 kms. long and estimated to cost about Rs. 17 86 crores. Survey reports are at present under examination and an economic appraisal is also being carried out. Decision regarding the construction of this project will be taken after the survey reports and economic study are examined from all angles

PLAN TO REDUCE CLASSES OF ACCOMMODATION

1329. SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 8 different classes of accommodation provided in the trains for which different fares are applicable;

(b) whether there is any proposal before Government to increase or decrease the number of classes of accommodation in the trains; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration under which a long distance IIIrd class passenger whose journey falls between 10 P.M. and 4 A.M. will be provided sleeper accommodation automatically ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No. Only five classes of accommodation are provided in the trains on Indian Railways, namely, Airconditioned Class, First Class, Airconditioned Chair Car, Second Class and Third Class. There are Second Class sleeper and Third Class Two-Tier and Three-Tier sleeper services also but these are not treated as different classes of accommodation.

(b) No.

(c) No.

PUNCTUALITY OF TRAINS

1330. SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of improvement in the punctual running of passenger trains brought about by his drive launched in June, 1971;

(b) which Zonal Railway has responded the most and which Railways have failed to respond; and

(c) the rewards given for bringing about improvements and punishment awarded for failure in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) The punctuality drive launched in June, 71, resulted in an all round improvement in punctuality. The extent of improvement on each railway is shown in the attached statement.

(b) All the railways have responded well, though the extent of improvement varies.

(c) No reward or punishment has been awarded to any individual railway, but individuals have been rewarded as well as punished according to their performance.

STATEMENT

Railway	Punctuality percentage of Mail/Express trains 'Not losing time'	
	Pre-drive (May' 71)	Post-drive (July to Nov., 71 average)

Broad Gauge

Central	73.4	89
Eastern	24.3	44
Northern	82.3	91
Northeast Frontier	43.5	60
Southern	77.1	94
South Central	75.0	93
South Eastern	54.2	70
Western	56.7	94

Metre Gauge

Northern	87.7	93
North Eastern	69.6	82
Northeast Frontier	62.9	80
Southern	84.5	93
South Central	85.0	95
Western	85.3	95

DIFFERENCE IN RATES OF ELECTRICITY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

1331. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether electricity supplied in urban areas and rural areas in various parts of the country is charged at different rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KURIEL): (a) to (c). The State Electricity Boards have generally introduced uniform rates for each class of consumers both in urban and rural areas in their respective area of operation. In the case of Himachal Pradesh the rates for domestic supply for rural areas are lower than those in urban areas. In Uttar Pradesh the low tension tariff in the cities of Allahabad, Kanpur and Lucknow are lower than those in rural areas for historical reasons. Difference in the rates for the same class of

consumers in a State will be gradually reduced.

SEPARATE QUOTA OF SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION AT RAIGANJ AND KALIYAGANJ STATIONS (NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY)

1332. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate bogie is available for the passengers from Radhikapur to Barsoi to provide connection with Darjeeling Mail and Kamrup Express at Barsoi junction; and

(b) whether a separate quota of sitting-cum-sleeping accommodation is available in the aforesaid trains for the passenger of Raiganj and Kaliyaganj Station (Northeast Frontier Railway)?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) No.

(b) A quota of 4 third class seats (3 for Raiganj and 1 for Kaliyaganj passengers) is available Ex. Barsoi by 44 Dn. Darjeeling Mail. There is, however, no sitting or sleeping accommodation quota by 60 Dn. Kamrup Express for passengers of Raiganj and Kaliyaganj as the journey between Barsoi and Howrah is covered during day time.

DELEGATION TO ARGENTINA FOR TRADE TALKS.

1333. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation headed by the Chairman of Equipments and Projects Corporation, New Delhi, visited Argentina for trade talks; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the talks held and the decisions arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) and (b). A delegation headed by the Chairman, Projects and Equipment Corporation visited Argentina besides some other Latin American countries for exploring possibilities of increasing exports to this area. Preliminary talks