

(SAIL) in public interest under the provision of Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956. Its merger with SAIL would provide the right opportunity for technological upgradation and better resource management. The merger would also enable creation of a better market synergy and proper linkages to other Special Steel Plants of SAIL, etc.

At present, there is no proposal for merging Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) with SAIL.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Gauge Conversion

4297. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of metre gauge railway line from Guwahati to Lumding which causes great inconvenience to the travelling public and traders of the barak Valley of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur; and

(b) the steps being taken for smooth movement of goods and passengers trains till the gauge conversion is completed in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The metre gauge line between Guwahati and Lumding has been converted to Broad Gauge.

(b) Conversion of Lumding-Silchar line to Broad Gauge has been taken up. Till such time this work is completed, adequate transshipment facilities have been provided at Lumding.

Reservation Quota at Bhusawal Railway Station

4298. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reservation quota at Bhusawal station, train-wise;

(b) whether the quota allotted to Bhusawal station fulfils the requirement of the passengers;

(c) if not, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fulfil the requirement of the passengers;

(d) whether the Government propose to sanction VIP quota also from Bhusawal for Karnataka Express; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) The reservation quotas available at Bhusawal are not being fully utilised in most of the trains and as such are considered adequate to meet the present level of traffic. However, from November, 1997 onwards an additional quota of 67 berths has been allotted at Bhusawal in various trains where the same was considered necessary.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) 2627/2628 Karnataka Express is a fully patronised train and it is not feasible to make any adjustment with a view to allot emergency quota at Bhusawal in this train.

Statement

The details of reservation quota available at Bhusawal are as under

Sl.No.	Train No.	Destination	Class	Quota
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2106 Vidarbha Express	Mumbai	AC 2 tier AC 3 tier Sleeper	8 6 25
2.	1015 Kushinagar Express	Gorakhpur	AC 2 tier Sleeper	2 24
3.	1016 Kushinagar Express	Mumbai	Sleeper	24