

[Translation]

**Construction of Over Bridge at Digghi and Akara Level Crossings**

4323. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to construct overbridges over Digghi and Akara level crossings on the Hazipur-Muzaffarpur road are pending since a long time; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to construct these two bridges ?

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 proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 54 at Digghi between Hazipur & Chakmakrandh Halt was proposed by PWD Patna as deposit work to be financed by World Bank in 1996-97. The General Arrangement Drawing and detailed estimate for railway portion were sent to PWD, Ganga project, Patna for acceptance in August 1996. Since it is a deposit work, execution can be taken up only after the State Govt. conveys its acceptance and deposits the amount. No proposal for Road Over Bridge at Akara has been received by Railway so far.

(b) Depends upon initiative to be taken by State Govt.

[English]

**Pilotless Aircraft**

4324. SHRI AJAY KUMAR SARNAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for manufacturing a pilotless Aircraft for Indian Air Force (IAF) was under the consideration of the Government sometime back; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Consequent to successful development of the indigenous Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) 'Lakshya', Defence Research and Development Organisation has undertaken limited series production to meet the urgent requirement of the Air Force, the Navy and the Army. Two PTAs are scheduled to be delivered to Air Force by August 1998. Parallely, the technology is being transferred to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., the bulk production agency, to meet further requirements of the three Services.

**Pension Revision for Pre-1986 Pensioners**

4325. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet issued orders for revising the pension of Pre-January 1, 1986 retirees from Armed Forces though the order has been issued on February 10, 1998 in the case of Central Civil pensioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the orders have been issued for disbursing medical allowance to armed forces/family pensioners as is being done in the case of civil pensioners; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Orders for revision of pension of Pre-January 1, 1986 retirees from Armed Forces have been issued.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Condition of Coaches**

4326. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many coaches in trains are in bad shape; and

(b) if so, the time by when these coaches would be repaired or replaced ?

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) and (b) Coaches are regularly maintained to prescribed norms and replacements are made on age-cum-condition basis within the available resources and manufacturing capacity. Regular induction of new coaches is steadily bringing down the percentage of overaged coaches.

Railways are also taking a number of measures to maintain the existing coaches in good fettle. Some of these are : renovation of rakes, rehabilitation of coaches, fitment