

- (a) whether new reserves of minerals have been found in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the action being taken for its prospecting;
- (c) the names of the places where the mining work is going on in Uttar Pradesh till date;
- (d) the achievements made thereof;
- (e) whether any technical assistance has been sought/likely to be sought from some foreign institutions in regard to mining work in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes Sir. A possible reserve of 1.45 million tonnes of Basemetal ore with 6.63% Lead and Zinc has been estimated in Amtiyargad, Dehradun district. A total resource of 274.79 million cubic metre of dimension stone has been estimated in Lalitpur, Jhansi, Mahoba, Hamirpur and Banda districts and an inferred reserve of 0.35 million cubic metre (approx.) in Sonbhadra district.

(b) Seven items of mineral investigations comprising three items of Gold, two items for Basemetal and two items for Dimension Stone, have been taken up by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Uttar Pradesh during the Field Season 1997-98.

(c) The names of the places where the mining work is going on in Uttar Pradesh is as under :

<i>District</i>	<i>Minerals Produced</i>
Almora	Magnesite, steatite
Allahabad	Silica sand
Banda	Silica sand
Dehradun	Phosphorite, Limestone
Hamirpur	Diaspore, Pyrophyllite
Jhansi	Diaspore, Pyrophyllite, Granite
Lalitpur	Diaspore, Phosphorite, Granite Phrophyllite.
Mirzapur	Limestone
Pithoragar	Magnesite, steatite
Sonebhadra	Dolomite, coal
Tehri Garhwal	Dolomite, coal
Singrauli Coal	
Field	Coal
Bina	Coal
Mahaba	Granite

(d) The total value of mineral production in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years indicates that it has maintained an increasing trend. The total value of mineral (including coal and minor minerals) which was Rs. 198 crores in 1995-96 has increased to Rs. 1086 crores in 1996-97 and further to Rs. 1103 crores in 1997-98.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of New Division at Ahmedabad

227. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided for setting up of New Division of Western Railway at Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up and made functional ?

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) Government has decided to set up 8 new Divisions including one at Ahmedabad.

(b) The inaugural function of Ahmedabad division was held on 10.3.1998. An Officer-on-Special Duty (OSD) has been positioned at Ahmedabad for smooth setting up of the proposed new division. The issue regarding acquisition of adequate land in a convenient location from the State Government of Gujarat is being actively pursued.

(c) The time frame can be decided after availability of suitable land and finalisation of territorial jurisdiction.

Laying of New Rail Lines

228. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the various State Governments for laying new railway lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the railway projects pending with the Union Government alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the railway lines which are being laid at present, State-wise?

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) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Introduction of New Trains from Chandigarh

229. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new trains to and from Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the new trains are likely to be started ?

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) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Attachment of Coaches

230. SHRI LARANG SAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to attach two extra coaches each for Delhi and Bhopal bound trains from Vishrampur Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) No, Sir.

(c) One Slip coach each is running between Bishrampur-Nizamuddin and Chirmiri-Bhopal by 403/8477/8478/404 and 405/8236/8235/406 respectively which is adequately catering to the present level of traffic.

[English]

Stock of Finished Steel

231. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the stock of finished steel is increasing in steel mills in the country; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the end of March, 1998 the stocks of finished steel vis-a-vis stocks at the end of March, 1997 with the Main Producers of steel were as under :-

Company	(Quantity in 000' Tonnes)		% Increase
	Stocks as on 31.3.97	31.3.98 (Prov.)	
SAIL	1002	1249	25%
IISCO	24	36	50%
RINL (VSP)	158	245	55%
TISCO	92	107	16%
Total	1276	1637	28%

The major reasons for increase in the stocks include :

- i) sluggish demand in steel consuming sectors,
- ii) overall economic slow down in the country;
- iii) greater competition from imports due to reduction in Custom duties for finished steel; and
- iv) dumping of finished steel in the country, particularly from CIS & South East Asian countries.

Construction of Railway Bridge

232. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the projected time of initiation of work on railway bridge connecting Digha (Patna) to North Bihar;

(b) the reasons for delay; and

(c) the expected time of completion of the above project ?

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) to (c) Detailed survey and investigations for construction of the bridge have been taken up. Model studies are also to be done to determine the best site for the bridge. These will take about 1½ to 2 years, after which the costs will be firmed up and nece-