

(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-