

(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-

sary clearances for taking up the work would be processed. Time of completion can be assessed only after the work content is determined by the survey and the time when the clearances are received and work is actually started.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge at Gorakhpur

233. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the low level and narrow road at railway bridge at Dharmashala in Gorakhpur resulting in serious water logging and traffic problems;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct railway overbridge to solve this problem; and

(c) if so, by when ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work can be considered on deposit terms i.e. If State Govt. or Municipal Corporation of Gorakhpur sponsors proposal duly agreeing to bear the entire cost of construction and recurring maintenance under extant rules. No such proposal has been received so far.

[English]

Airport at Cannanore, Kerala

234. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the airports that are being developed or proposed to be developed in Kerala;

(b) whether the work has commenced on the proposed airport at Cannanore in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details of work completed as on March 31, 1998 and expenses incurred as on that date out of the total allocation made for this project; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Works relating to extension of runway to 9000'

for operation of AB-300 class of aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 102.80 crores have been taken up at Calicut Airport. These are expected to be completed by January, 2000. State Government has undertaken, in two phases, construction of a new airport of international standards at Nedumbassery near Cochin with private participation. In Trivandrum Airport, works such as extension of apron, interim modification to international terminal and airconditioning of Terminal-II have been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.83 crores. There is a proposal to construct an international terminal complex at Trivandrum at an estimated cost. of Rs. 200 crores, subject to economic viability for the project and acquisition of land by the State Government.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Government of India have accepted in principle the proposal for construction of an airport at Kannur under the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, with the State Government of Kerala acting as the promoter of the project which is to be executed through private participation. The Initiative now rests with the State Government.

[Translation]

Gauge conversion of Suratgarh-Sriganga Nagar-Hannumangarh Rail Line

235. Er. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Suratgarh-Sriganga Nagar-Hannumangarh-Jaipur metre gauge line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be started and completed ?

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) Sri Ganganagar-Sarupsar gauge conversion is already included in the Railway budget 1997-98. The work is to be started after requisite clearances are obtained for which action has been initiated. Sri Ganganagar-Hannumangarh will be considered for conversion when the next phase of project uni-gauge is taken up sometime in the 10th plan period.

(b) The target date will be fixed after the work is started.

[English]

Upgradation of Airports Infrastructure

236. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the upgradation of the airports infrastructure to meet the passenger and cargo need in future;

(b) if so, the main feature thereof; and