

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Unprofitable Railway Routes

794. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of rail routes in the country are unprofitable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the loss suffered by the railways due to operating trains on such routes during 1996-97 and 1997-98?

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) During 1996-97, the loss suffered by the railways on 120 Uneconomic Branch Lines was Rs. 243.67 crores. For 1997-98, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Occupation of Seats by Coolies

795. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coolies occupy seats in the unreserved coaches and offer these seats to the passengers by charging money from them; and

(b) if so, the arrangements made by the Government to check such type of practices?

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) Some instances have come to notice.

(b) Regular checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel in all Mail/Express trains to prevent cornering

of seats by coolies and other anti-social elements. In addition, queue system has also been introduced for passengers for preventing cornering of seats by coolies/porters in unreserved coaches.

[English]

Pipelines for Safe Drinking Water

796. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is going to get technological help from Israel for laying network of pipelines to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether experts are making a draft plan for having system of pipelines similar to that in Israel; and

(d) if so, the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry to get technological help from Israel for laying a network of pipelines to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Damage of Pots

797. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to USQ No. 5346 dated July 23, 1998 regarding the damage of pots in Aluminium plant at Angul, Orissa and state:

(a) the findings of the Committee and the recommendations thereof;

(b) the actions taken by the NALCO and his Ministry on the findings so far; and

(c) the total loss incurred due to the damage of pots and the funds provided for replacement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Committee has concluded that main causes of instability and failure in the pot lines are gradual deterioration in the performance of pots over the years due to non-adherence to standard operating practices, inadequate