

(c) whether the Government have received a number of suggestions from the enquiry Committee reports which went into each and every rail accident that occurred in the country during the last three years;

(d) if so, the main suggestions made in these reports and the number out of them implemented and implementation;

(e) whether the Government have received all the enquiry reports of the rail accidents that took place in the country during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the number of reports are yet to be received?

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. All accepted suggestions/recommendations are implemented. Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to negligence of road users.

(c) and (d) Depending upon the extent of damages each accident is enquired into by a committee of officers or by the commission of Railway Safety. The accepted recommendations are implemented.

(e) to (g) During the last 3 years i.e. 1995-96 to 1997-98 1543 accidents had taken place. Enquiry reports of 1503 accidents were received and enquiry reports in 40 accidents cases are yet to be received.

Extension of Konkan Railway upto Mangalore

911. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Konkan Railway upto Mangalore;

(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) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to extend the operating

jurisdiction from Panvel (in North) to Mangalore (in South) has been referred to a Committee. Further consideration of the proposal would be possible once the report becomes available.

Cost Cutting Measures

912. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to adopt cost cutting measures as suggested by the consultants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to realise outstanding dues from the defaulting industrial units?

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. The Railways have not appointed any consultants to suggest cost cutting measures. It is, however, a continuous endeavour on the part of the Railways to contain the expenditure.

(c) In order to realise the outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Houses and other Industrial Units, certain measures have been taken by the Railway Administration which are detailed below:

(i) Outstanding dues are closely monitored by the Zonal Railways and regular meetings are held with the senior officials of the State Electricity Boards/Power Houses and other Organisations to persuade them to pay outstanding Railway dues.

(ii) Railways also adjust their dues with the amounts, if any, payable to such Organisations, when normal efforts to realise the dues fail. Adjustment of railway freight bills with electric traction bills is also being done from time to time.

(iii) Past outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards are also being realised and adjusted by appropriation from the Central Plan Assistance at the rate of 15% of the total outlay. This is distributed by the Ministry of Finance *pro rata* on the basis of proportion due to Indian Railways.