

(b) Introduction of a train between Kanpur and Jammu Tawi is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

#### Expansion of Railway Network

309. SHRI AJIT JOGI :

DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have formulated any new schemes to expand Railway network in the backward, hilly, tribal, remote and desert areas in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented;

(d) the scheme-wise expenditure to be incurred thereon;

(e) whether priority is being given for the expansion of Railway Network in the Adiwasi dominated areas of Madhya Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

#### Direct Rail Line from Delhi to Kandla Port

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for Direct rail link on BG line from Delhi to Kandla Port via Ajmer and Palanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, the time by which the above line is likely to be constructed ?

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) Kandla is already linked to Delhi by BG via Ajmer, Palanpur and Ahmedabad.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Gauge Conversion on Vasco-Miraj Railway Line

311. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the broad gauge conversion on Vasco-Miraj Railway line has been started;

(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) Yes, Sir. The gauge conversion of Miraj-Vasco section from metre gauge to broad gauge has already been completed.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Foreign Investment in Diamonds

312. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign firms have been permitted to invest for prospecting for diamonds in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the firms and the area earmarked for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether Foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared these proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has approved the following proposals of foreign direct investment for prospecting/exploration/exploitation of diamonds in the country subject to the condition that the companies should also obtain specific approvals both for prospecting and mining under Mines & Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, and also appropriate approvals from the State Governments concerned:-

1. Ashton Mining, Australia,
2. De Beers Mauritius Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius
3. De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., South Africa
4. De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., South Africa

The Central Government has not earmarked any specific area for diamond prospecting by the above companies.

#### Modernisation of Telecom Network in Railways

313. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :