

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. The relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code are already included in the training curriculum of all ranks of the Railway Protection Force to acquaint them with the offences relating to property and person. Relevant sections from the chapters on General Definitions, General Exceptions, Law relating to right of private defence, Offences against the public tranquility, Offences relating to false evidence and public justice, Offences affecting the human body, Offences of hurt, Wrongful restraint and wrongful confinement, Of criminal force and assault, Offences against property and Offences relating to Criminal Trespass are taught to the members of the Force for this purpose.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The personnel of the Railway Protection Force are basically required to protect the railway property. They are not empowered to deal with the offences against the travelling public and their belongings. Law and order is a State subject, for the enforcement of which the Government Railway Police is functioning under the control of the respective State Governments. Empowering the personnel of the Railway Protection Force to deal with crimes on railways, like the Government Railway Police, does not arise.

[English]

Gallantry Awards

375. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gallantry Awards being given to army personnel do not include monetary help;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to offer some monetary help for the family members of the posthumous awardees ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERRELL) : (a) to (c) Monetary allowance is being given to each recipient of gallantry awards, and in the case of posthumous awardees, the same is given to his widow or widower or mother/father or son below 18 years or unmarried daughter, as the case may be.

[Translation]

Working Group to watch quality of food

376. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has directed to all Zonal Railways to constitute Working Group in their Zones to keep a watch over the quality of food served at Railway Stations and in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by various zonal Railways on the above directions.

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. Adequate machinery exists on Zonal Railways for monitoring the quality of food served at Railway Stations and in trains. Regular and surprise checks are conducted at various levels and remedial action taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Encroachment of Railway Land

377. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that railway land worth crore of rupees are being encroached upon in various States;

(b) if so, the approximate acres of such land encroached upon; State-wise and zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove these encroachers and to provide protection to railway properties ?

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) About 2457 hectares of railway land is under encroachment. Information about area of Railway land under encroachment is not maintained State-wise but Zonal Railway-wise as Railway Zones span over more than one state. The details are as follows :

Railway Zone	Area under encroachment (In hectares)
Central	64
Eastern	85
Northern	900
Northern Eastern	115
Northeast	
Frontier	304
Southern	83
South Central	84
South Eastern	715
Western	107
Total	2457

(c) Removal of encroachment on Railway land is a continuous process. New encroachments are removed as soon as these are noticed. Regarding old encroachments, these are removed under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Following steps are taken to protect Railway land;

- (i) Identification of vulnerable areas ;
- (ii) Construction of boundary wall/ fencing in the vulnerable areas.
- (iii) Plantation in the area.
- (iv) Joint visits of the vulnerable locations by representatives of concerned Departments alongwith civil authorities.

[English]

Cellular Phones System in Trains

378. SHRI S. S. OWAISSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether in a bid to make the rail travel safer, Railways are planning to introduce Cellular Phone System in the Trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this system can provide contact between different stations and trains;
- (d) if so, the time by which this system is likely to be started and regions chosen for its start; and
- (e) the total expenditure earmarked for this purpose ?

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 (e) Does not arise.

Distribution of Yamuna Water

379. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of Yamuna water provided to Uttar Pradesh for the supply of drinking water during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the water so provided in accordance with the demand made;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there has been a rapid increase in the demand of potable water during the last years in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken on proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Considering

the irrigation and drinking water consumption requirements, the Chief Ministers of Basin States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 12.5.94 regarding allocation of surface flow of Yamuna upto Okhla. An allocation of 4.032 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) was agreed to for Uttar Pradesh.

The Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) made following seasonal allocation of Yamuna water upto Okhla to the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

Year	July to Oct. BCM	Nov. to Feb BCM	March to June BCM	Total BCM
1995-96	3.216	0.343	0.473	4.032
1996-97	3.216	0.343	0.473	4.032
1997-98	3.216	0.343	0.473	4.032

Inter-sectoral prioritisation, out of allocated water , has to be done by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Water supply is a State subject. No such information has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(e) In view of 'd' above, question does not arise.

Gauge Conversion in Andhra Pradesh

380. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the railways have completed any gauge conversion works in Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of on going gauge conversion work in the State; and
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

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) The gauge conversion of Mahbubnagar-Dronachellam section has been completed in 1997-98. The following are the ongoing gauge conversion works in Andhra Pradesh:

(i) *Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi-Section*

Work is making good progress and the section is presently targetted for completion in December, 2000, subject to availability of resources.

(ii) *Mudkhed-Adilabad Section (Party in Andhra Pradesh)*

Work has been taken up under the Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Scheme and is expected to be completed in about one year's time from now.

(iii) *Guntur-Guntakal and Guntakal-Kalluru with lifting of Kalluru-Dharamvaram MG Section*

The gauge conversion of Guntur-Guntakal section has