

On-going Railway Projects in Goa

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

(a) the details of on-going railway projects in Goa and the progress made for their completion by December 31, 1998;

(b) whether the Government propose to take up any new railway project during the Ninth Plan period in Goa; and

(c) 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) There are no ongoing Railway projects in Goa.

(b) and (c) Taking up projects is a need based exercise. New projects if required and subject to availability of funds will be taken up in the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan. A Rail Terminal at Shelvona in Goa is proposed to be developed in Goa for handling additional iron ore and export traffic.

Catering and Tourism Corporation

446. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval of the Cabinet has been received to set-up a catering and Tourism Corporation to improve catering services in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set-up?

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) The proposal for setting up of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has been submitted for Cabinet's approval. The Corporation will be set up soon after the approval of the Cabinet is received.

Setting up of HPTs in Kerala

447. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal regarding the Second Channel of the Doordarshan exclusively for the telecast of the programme of the Kerala State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for setting up of High Power Transmitter at various places of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified for the propose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Requests have been received, from various quarters, including State Government, from time to time. Schemes for setting up HPTs at Calicut (Permanent set up), Cannanore, Cochin (DD-2) and Trivandrum (DD-2) are presently under different stages of implementation.

Development of Gulbarga DD Kendra in Karnataka

448. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of funds and technical staff at Gulbarga Doordarshan Kendra in Karnataka and due to which local artists are not being exposed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Gulbarga Doordarshan Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As the resources available for DDK, Gulbarga, are considered to be adequate keeping in view the present level of programme generation/transmission from the Kendra, no specific action is needed to strengthen the Kendra at present.

Amendment of Labour Act

449. SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 is under consideration of the Government for a long time;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to bring the amendment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 is administered by the State Governments. It is applicable for tea, coffee, rubber and cinchona plantations. The State Government may apply it to any other plantations also.

Various amendments in the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 are proposed, based on the requirements of the social partners. A cautious policy is adopted to bring about any amendment in the Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

Ghatkopar Railway Station

450. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests/representations from the various groups to convert the Ghatkopar Suburban Railway Station in Mumbai into a Suburban Railway Terminal and start more local trains from there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government 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 following representations/requests have been received:

(i) Representation dated 3.4.1998 received from Mumbai Eastern Suburban passengers association.

(ii) Representation dated 12.9.1998 received from Shri V.R. Kamath

(iii) Shri Jagdish S. Patil and others dated 2.10.1998

(iv) Shri V.V. Pathania dated 2.10.1998

(c) At present only two originating/terminating services are available from Ghatkopar which have necessarily to be handled on the existing bypassing platforms only. Even these trains have an adverse impact on the headway of suburban services.

If these platforms are used for additional terminal facilities, the service frequency and operational efficiency of the bypassing trains, which are time tabled to move at a predetermined interval of five minutes will be further affected. The suburban corridor is being utilized to 100% of available capacity, and the introduction of additional originating/terminating trains from Ghatkopar is therefore not feasible for the time being.

In order to reduce commuter distress arising out of overcrowding, Central Railway has planned certain capacity augmentation works on the suburban corridors. These include:—

(i) Reduction in headway on Local Corridor—from 5 minutes to 3.5 minutes, by re-signalling works which will result in increase in frequency of services;

(ii) Introduction of 12 Car services in place of 9-Car services on the Through Corridor.

These proposals are being implemented in a phased manner, and will generate additional transport capacity, thus enabling considerable improvement in the comfort level of commuters. The problem of over-crowding, which is being experienced at Ghatkopar is also expected to get alleviated to some extent on account of these measures.