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Pondicherry

Asansol (DD II)
Murshidabad (DD II)
LPT
Balrampur
Cooch Bihar
Garhbeta

HPT
Pondicherry

[English]

Clearance for Gauge Conversion of Naupada-Gunupur Railway Line

527. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to get the clearance of gauge conversion of Naupada-Gunupur railway line from Planning Commission so far, although the work has been included in the budget for the year 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) Naupada-Gunupur Gauge Conversion project was included in the Railway Budget, 1997-98, with the proviso that the actual work would be taken up only after obtaining the requisite clearances. Survey for this line was conducted in August-September, 1997, but the Report was required to be updated, which has done in June-July, 1998. While the updated Survey Report was being examined by the Railway Ministry, a proposal was received from the State Government of Orissa for re-assessment of the traffic projection on this line in view of a major port being built at Gopalpur. Accordingly, the Survey Report had to be updated further. Once the revised traffic potential is finalised and the modified Survey Report examined, the proposal will be sent to the Planning Commission for appraisal and, thereafter, it will be processed for clearance of the Expanded Board/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

[Translation]

Train between Habibganj-Nizamuddin

528. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that in 1998-99 budget, provision was made to start 'Hazarat Nizamuddin Bhopal Express' and published in Railway Time Table;

(b) if so, the reasons for not starting the said train so far; and

(c) the time by which the said train is likely to be started?

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) The train has not been introduced due to non-clearance of the encroachments at Habibganj and cannot be introduced till the encroachments are removed.

[English]

Rail/Expressway Corridor Project

529. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to stop the infrastructure rail/expressway corridor project between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, whether some organisations and experts have also opposed the said project in its totality; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) and (c) Do not arise.