

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The present railway network is divided into 9 zones and 59 divisions. Zones/divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(b) and (c). A number of representations expressing resentment have been received particularly from Bilaspur and Hubli.

(d) and (e). An Advisers' Committee for reorganisation was set up (1994) which recommended creation of four additional zones (including one at Jaipur in Rajasthan) and six additional divisions.

(f) and (g). A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of the zones/divisions has not been taken as yet.

(h) Zones/divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(i) Representations for setting up of zonal headquarters had been received for a number of places like Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bilaspur, Jabalpur, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Bangalore, Hubli, Barauni etc.

(j) The Government has decided to set up six additional zones with headquarters at Allahabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Jabalpur, Hajipur and Bhubaneswar.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

*379. SHRI SATYAJITSINGH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the metre gauge/narrow gauge lines proposed to be converted into broad gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the time by which the remaining meter gauge/narrow gauge lines are proposed to be converted into broad gauge;

(c) whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up gauge conversion projects in Gujarat through the private funding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details of metre gauge/narrow lines converted into BG during the 1st four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan and those targetted to be completed during the remaining period of the Plan are as under:

Calendar of Gauge conversions 92-93 to 96-97 (8th Plan)

92-93 Completed Section	Kms	93-94 Completed Section	Kms	94-95 Completed Section	Kms	95-96 Completed Section	Kms	96-97 Section	Kms
Delhi-Rewari	83	Bhatinda-Hissar	157	Hissar-Rewari	143	Harlapur-Hospet	67	Viramgam-Mehsana	65
Lalgarh-Merta Rd	177	Jaipur-Phulera	55	Phulera-Ajmer	81	Hospet-Swamahalli	60	Mehsana-Marwar-Ajmer	103
Lalgarh-Kolayat	47	Phulera-Jodhpur	261	Rewari-Jaipur	225	Londa-Castierock	25	Jodhpur-Marwar	136
SawaiMadhopur-Jaipur	125	Tumkur-Arasikere	101	Mehsana-Khodiya	52	Mudkhed-Nanded	23	Guntakal-Nandyal	28
Bangalore-Tumkur	59	Arasikere-Chickijalur	114	Delhi Cantt-DLI/NDLS	14	Nallalung-Dimapur	38	Wadsa-Nagbir	47
Mysore-Bangalore	138	Narsaraopet-Donakonda	75	Jodhpur-Jaisalmer	295	Yellahanka-Chickballapur	46	Arasikere-Hassan	151
Guntur-Narsaraopet	46	Secunderabad-Mehboobnagar	127	Chickijalur-Harihar	60	Makrana-Parbatsar	21	Hossur-Salem	59
Dindigul-Tuticorin	196	Madras-Tambaram	27	Harihar-Hubli	129	Samastipur-Darbhanga	37	Sagaull-Narkatiaganj	97
Bellary-Rayadurg	54	Chickijalur-Chitradurg	16	Hubli-Londa	93	Giddalur-Nandyal	69	Hotgi-Bijapur	87
Aurangabad-Jalna	64	Jalna-Parbhani	116	Londa-Miraj	188	Gunda Rd-Kottur	50	Castle Rock-Vasco	193
Parbhani-Parivaijnath	63	Gondia-Arjuni	82	Birur-Shimoga	63	Aunrihar-Chhapra	171	Furkating-Mariani-Lekhapani	48
Burhwal-Mehmoodabad	38	Secunderabad-Bolarum	14	Hubli-Gadag-Harlapur	78	Yeshwanpur-Salem	46	Tinsukia-Dibrugarh	63
Nadiad-Kapadvanj	45	Allahabad-Varanasi	126	Alnavar-Amedwadi	26	Chhindwara-Parasia	28	Tinsukia-Lekhapani	99
Kothkapura-Fazilka	80	Guwahati-Lumding	181	Donakonda-Giddalur	84	Dimapur-Furkating	70	Mau-Shahganj	18
Lucknow-Kanpur	59	Mehmoodabad-Sitapur	60	Chickijalur-Chitradurg	18	Guwahati-Kamakhya	7	Bangarpet-Kolar	
Mankapur-Katra	30	Merta Rd-Merta City	15	Parbhani-Purna	29				
Bangalore-Yellahanka	12	Daund-Baramati	42	Purna-Nanded	32				
Purulia-Kotshila	35	Lalkuan-Kathgodam	29	Arjuni-Wadsa	23				
		Patel Nagar-Sarai	3	Muzaffarpur-Raxaul	129				
		Durgapur-Jaipur	8	Lumding-Nailalung	22				
		Mysore-Ashok Puram	5	Chapermukh-Haibargaon	21				
		Lucknow-Manakgarh	5						
	1351		1619		1805		758		1617

Already done upto 31.3.96

5533 Kms

(b) Only those lines required on urgent operational and strategic considerations are proposed to be converted in a phased manner. At present only about 15966 kms. of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines have been identified for conversion during 8th and 9th Plan periods. No time schedule can be fixed for conversion of all metre gauge/narrow gauge lines as this will depend on availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Proposals were received from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of Rajkot-Veraval, Navlakhi-Wankaner-Maliya, Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Viramgam-Mahesana-Patan, Bedi Port, Surendranagar-Rajula, Kolal-Vijapur, Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar, Dhrangadhra-Kuda, Gandhidham-Bhuj, Joravarnagar-Sayala, and Bharuch-Dehej. Out of these, Gauge Conversion of Wankaner-Dahinsara-Navlakhi and Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana and Viramgam-Mahesana is in progress through Private Capital under the BOLT Scheme and are targetted to be completed within this financial year. Gauge Conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj at Rajkot-Veraval section would be started shortly. The remaining proposals are either under examination or could not be taken up due to unremunerativeness and constraint of resources.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Details have been indicated in reply to part (d) above.

Black*Pepper Production

*380. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total percentage of black pepper production in the State of Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that heavy incidence of pests, diseases, climatic vagaries and price fluctuation have acted as serious deterrents to the investment in the better crop management;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for launching of Technology Mission on the black pepper; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The State of Kerala contributed 97.9 percent to the total black pepper production in India during 1994-95.

(b) During my visit to Kerala, low incidence of disease and pest was reported to me. However, no serious incidence of pests or disease of black pepper was reported in Kerala during 1994-95 and 1995-96. The average yearly wholesale prices of black pepper at Cochin have steadily increased from Rs. 2779/- quintal in 1992 to Rs. 7575/- quintal in 1995.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government has proposed a Technology Mission for black pepper for implementation as a state activity. The Mission envisages to pool available resources and efforts, and integrate the activities of all State and Central institution/agency located in the State and involved in development of this crop to work towards common objective of improving production and productivity of black pepper. The Ministry has endorsed the proposal in principle and made appropriate provision in the 1996-97 budget for implementing production oriented components.

[Translation]

Central Hindi Advisory Committee

3009. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Central Hindi Advisory Committee is likely to be set up;

(b) the time by which the Hindi Advisory Committee as per the pattern of Hindi Advisory Committee of all the Ministries would be set up in the Prime Minister's Office to ensure the implementation of the official language;

(c) whether due to non constitution of the Hindi Advisory and official language Implementation Committees in the Prime Minister's office, the implementation of official language in the Public Sector in the country is suffering; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve upon the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to constitute any committee as Central Hindi Advisory Committee. Hon'ble Member of Parliament perhaps is referring to the Central Hindi Committee. Constitution of this Committee is under process.

(b) to (d). The position with regard to the Prime Minister's Office is different from that of other Ministries/Depts. It is a small Office which renders secretarial assistance to the Prime Minister. In view of this, it was not felt necessary to constitute a Hindi Advisory Committee and Official Language Implementation Committee in Prime Minister's Office. A Joint Secretary has been entrusted with the duty of implementing instructions issued for the progressive use of Hindi.

[English]

Life Line Express

3010. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made so far about the utility of the train called 'Life Line Express'?