

Introduction of Direct Trains

6457 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that till now the passengers of Calcutta are facing hardships in the absence of direct trains from Howrah to Goa, Jaisalmer, Kanyakumari, Dwarka, Hapa, Rajkot, Gandhidham, Porbandar and so on;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered to fulfil the demand of the people to introduce direct train services from Howrah; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Howrah is connected with Gandhidham and Porbandar by 2 and 3 through coaches respectively. The proposal to introduce direct trains between Howrah and Gandhidham, Porbandar, Rajkot, Hapa, Dwarka, Kanniyakumari and Goa have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints. The passengers will, for the present, have to avail of changeovers enroute.

ATC Project

6458 SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Safety Committee appointed by Civil Aviation Ministry has reported that location of Mumbai Air Traffic Control Project (ATC) was in violation of norms prescribed by International Civil Aviation Organisation both in terms of proximity of airport to runway and also of its height;

(b) if so, whether the Government have initiated any vigilance/inquiry into this ill conceived Rs. 40 crores ATC Project with a view to fixing responsibility; and

(c) if so, outcome of the inquiry and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Task force has been appointed to implement the recommendations of the Committee. In the meantime use of runway 14/32 at Mumbai airport has been suspended except in an emergency.

Stoppage of Trains at Sirathu Railway Station

6459. DR. AMRIT LAL BHARTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sirathu is a nearest railway station of a pilgrimage centre in Allahabad district and thousands of pilgrims arrive and leave from there daily, but they are facing acute difficulties as only a few trains halt there whereas the Government can easily make halt of 1801 up, 1802 Down, 4083 Up

and 5003 Down trains at the said station;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps for halting the said trains at Sirathu railway station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Stoppage of the additional trains at Sirathu station have been examined but not found justified.

Return Reservation Facilities

6460. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to link Asansol, Raniganj, Durgapur with Delhi, Mumbai, Madras and Secunderabad so as to enable the people of these places to have return reservation facilities;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Connectivity with the main reservation system of Delhi has been provided at Asansol. A project has been undertaken for networking of the 5 computerised passenger reservation systems of Calcutta, Mumbai, Madras, Delhi and Secunderabad, the software for which has been partially developed. Therefore, it would be feasible to link these places with other systems only after implementation of networking project.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Recognised Tourist Centres in Madhya Pradesh

6461. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places which are recognised as tourist centres in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government have any plan for the development of these places;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of tourists who visit Khajuraho, Sanchi and Mandau each year;

(e) whether there is popular demand to declare the Pashupatinath, Dharamrajeshwar and Hinglajgarh temples in Mandasaur district of Madhya Pradesh as tourist centres; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Governments in this regard?