

*[English]***Modernisation of Railway System**

579. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of plans drawn up and being implemented to modernise the railway system; and

(b) the details of progress made during the last three years in respect of modernisation of the railway track, telecommunications etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Some of the noteworthy plans drawn up and implemented, and under implementation for modernising the Railway system in the VIII Plan period are as under :

The Computerised Passenger Reservation System, has been expanded to a large number of locations. During the VIII Plan, the total number of computerised reservation locations has increased from 65 as on 31.3.92 to 271 as on 31.3.96, thus, covering over 92% of the total reservation work load on Indian Railways. It is planned to bring about further improvement in the reservation services by introducing networking arrangements.

Computerisation has been introduced in other areas of railway working including accounting work, certain aspects of personnel management, inventory control, wagon census and interchange, reservation enquiry system etc.

High-powered Electric and Diesel Locomotives are being imported with transfer of technology for ultimate indigenisation of production. Main Line Electric Multiple Units and Diesel Multiple Units have been introduced on high density traffic routes for the convenience of suburban passengers.

A high speed coach capable of 160 kmph speed is under trial.

Latest design concrete sleepers, modern rail fastenings and head-hardened rails are being utilised to strengthen the track. Track maintenance is being increasingly mechanised.

Electrification of the high density traffic corridors is being continued.

For enhancing safety, Auxiliary Warning System, Route Relay interlocking, Solid State Interlocking, Track Circuiting are being extended over the system.

Modernisation of telecommunications include gradual switching over from analog systems to digital systems, which include digital microwave, optical fibre and digital telephone exchanges. Microprocessor based public address system informing passengers on platforms about the status of the train running is being provided at important stations. Railways are also

introducing universal train radio communication system between driver, guard and the nearest station to enable immediate response in case of emergencies/accidents.

Bilaspur-Cochin Express

580. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations have been received to provide a pantry car in Bilaspur Cochin Express and to extend it upto Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) As per extant policy, pantry cars are provided in order of priority on certain selected long distance Mail/Express trains keeping in view the timings, stoppages, adequacy of catering services from static units enroute etc. subject to availability of pantry cars and maximum permissible load of the train. In the absence of pantry car on this train, the demands for catering services are met from stations enroute. The extension of 7057/7058 Bilaspur-Cochin Express upto Trivandrum has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India

581. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India (Durgapur) is in the list of BIFR;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of subsidy being given per quintal on the fertilizer by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA), (a) and (b). In accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd (HFC), including its Durgapur unit stands referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction since April 1992.

(c) The weighted average of the subsidy paid on indigenous and imported urea during 1995-96 was Rs. 342.40 per quintal.

*[Translation]***Man-Eater Hyena**

582. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether reports regarding killing of children by man-eater hyena from a few districts

including Pratapgarh and Allahabad have been received:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b). The State Wildlife Authorities of Uttar Pradesh have informed that a pack of wolves was responsible for the killing of 21 children in the Pratapgarh, Jaunpur and Sultanpur Districts between March 17 and July 6, 1996.

(c) The State Wildlife Authorities launched an intensive operation in the affected areas together with the officials of the police department and district administration and succeeded in eliminating the pack of 4 wolves which suspected to have been causing the depredations.

[English]

Construction of Fly Overbridges

583. SHRI D. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Tamil Nadu in Pachaikupam and Vaniyambadi near Ambur town, there are level crossings:

(b) if so, the time by which these level crossings are likely to be converted into the bridges; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). The system of replacing busy level crossings by road over/under bridges is that the State Governments propose the works giving priorities. The Railways then examine the cases and include such of them in the Works Programme for which various pre-requisite formalities have been completed by the State Governments. The Railways while including the works in the Works Programme, also take into account the quantum of existing sanctioned works for that particular State and the pace at which these works are being executed by the State Govt

[Translation]

Introduction of Train Service

584. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce train service between Muradabad, Gajraula and Sambhal,

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Operational exigencies and resource constraints.

[English]

Trains in North Bengal

585. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the number of trains running in the North-Bengal region is too meagre to meet the demand of the people;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to increase the number of trains from North Bengal to different directions, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) and (b). The train services in North Bengal region are by and large adequate to meet the passenger traffic demands. However there have been some demands to increase the train services from this area.

(b) There is no such proposal at present

(c) Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra

587. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that as a result of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the number of irrigation projects especially from Konkan and Vidarbha regions in Maharashtra have been delayed.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether in view of the prolonged delays the Government propose to keep the irrigation projects out of the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As on 30th June, 1996, 8 irrigation projects from Maharashtra are pending with the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of 8 irrigation projects, 4 projects are pending from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and none from Konkan

(b) The statement showing the details of the projects is enclosed

(c) On receipt of complete details, proposals are processed expeditiously for decision under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, there is no such proposal to keep the irrigation projects out of the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.