

Reservation in Fictitious Names

632. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Travel Agencies get railway berths booked in the fictitious names in connivance with the booking clerks;

(b) if so, what is the magnitude of the menace, and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Though it is not possible to quantify the extent and magnitude of the problem, cases of booking reserved accommodation in fictitious names by touts and other such unscrupulous elements are being reported and are detected during the course of checks conducted by Railways

(c) Railways conduct frequent checks in Reservation/Booking Offices at stations and in trains. Raids are also organised in the premises of unauthorised agents from time to time. Action is taken against such agents/touts found indulging in malpractices as also against the persons who are caught travelling on transferred ticket. They are booked under provisions of existing laws including Railways Act. Disciplinary action is taken against Railway staff who are found to be conniving in such activities

[Translation]

Development Projects of Madhya Pradesh

633 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the details of proposals from Madhya Pradesh lying pending with the Union Government for the environmental and forestry clearance till 31st December 1995, and

(b) the details of proposals disposed of by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As on 31.12.95, 12 proposals (6 mining and 6 Thermal power) were pending for environmental clearance and 27 proposals pertaining to irrigation, mining, regularisation of encroachments etc. were pending for forestry clearance with the Central Government

(b) As on 30.6.96, 146 projects have been received for environmental clearance. Out of this 74 projects have been accorded environmental clearance and 72 projects have been rejected due to non submission of

requisite environmental data. Similarly 948 proposals have been received for forestry clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of this 461 have been accorded forestry clearance and 146 have been rejected on merit.

[English]

Electrification of Guntur Railway Line

634 SHRI T GOPAL KRISHNA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify Bibi Nagar-Nadi-Kude on Guntur Railway line to improve the running time between Hyderabad and Madras and Hyderabad and Calcutta

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Electrification of any section is decided on the basis of the level of traffic obtaining and such a work being capital intensive it may be taken up if there is adequate return on the investment and for operational requirements. High density routes are therefore given priority. The traffic density in Bibi Nagar-Nadikude section in Guntur railway line is low at present and therefore cannot be justified on the basis of return on capital to be invested

Circular Railway in Calcutta

635 SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Circular Rail facility has been provided to commuters of Calcutta,

(b) if so, the destinations and names of stoppages of this Circular train,

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the Circular Rail upto Majerghat Railway Station (Via-Esplanade Fort William) in the near future,

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) whether the clearance from Defence is also required to be obtained for the proposed extension,

(f) if so, whether the same has been obtained and

(g) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The entire 13.5 km. non-electrified single line project from Dum Dum Jn to Princepghat has been commissioned in stages for traffic by 17.6.90. The name of the

stoppages and destination from Dum Dum to Princepghat is as under :

Stations	Distance (Kms)
1. Dum Dum to Patipukar	1.520
2. Patipukar to Ulta Danga	2.895
3. Ulta Danga to Tala	4.740
4. Tala to Bag Bazar	6.118
5. Bag Bazar to Sova Bazar	7.669
6. Sova Bazar to Burra Bazar	8.780
7. Burra Bazar to BBD Bagh	10.299
8. BBD Bagh to Chandpaighat	11.187
9. Chandpaighat to Eden Garden	11.501
10. Eden Garden to Princepghat	12.959

(c) and (d). The extension of Circular Railway from Princepghat to Majerghat is under consideration for which a fresh Techno-Economic Report and cost Benefit Analysis Study is being undertaken. Taking up of the project depends upon result of the study and availability of resources in the coming years. The alignment does not pass through via Esplanade-Fort Williams.

(e) to (g). Do not arise.

Metro Railway

636 SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent for Metro Railway, Calcutta upto March, 1996.

(b) the time by which the first phase of Metro Railway would be completed and the details thereof including the total cost.

(c) the position of extension of the Metro Railway from Tollygunge to Garia and from Dum Dum to Barrackpore and

(d) whether the second stage of Metro Railway connecting Sealdah to Howrah, has been taken up and if so, the cost of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Rs. 1530.24 crores

(b) The full stretch of Calcutta Metro from Dum Dum to Tollygunge (16.45 Km) has been opened to passenger traffic w.e.f. 27.9.95. However, certain residual works are continuing and the project is expected to be completed by March '97, at an approx. cost of Rs. 1,610 crore.

(c) Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules, proposals for such rail based urban transport projects are now to be processed by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and the State Government concerned. Railways will be prepared to render technical assistance, if so asked.

(d) No, Sir.

Fire Incident in Poorva Express

637. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of fire incident in Bogie No. 4806 of Poorva Express at Ghaziabad on May 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the loss suffered by the railways as a result thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter.

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken against the accused; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such occurrences in the future?

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

(b) The loss suffered by the railway amounted to Rs. 15,300 -

(c) and (d). An enquiry was conducted into the incident. The parcel and luggage loading staff of New Delhi station have been responsible for it. Action has been initiated against them.

(e) the following steps have been taken to check recurrence of such incidents :-

- (i) Loading staff at all stations have been counselled not to smoke during loading and unloading of packages.
- (ii) Electrical staff have been counselled to ensure that electric fittings are in order and fixed properly to avoid short circuits.
- (iii) "No smoking" legend has been placed on SLRs (Brake Van).
- (iv) Supervision by Parcel Clerks has been tightened.

Traders Flee Assam

638 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Traders flee Assam" appeared in "The Hindustan Times" of June 20, 1996;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control the panic and restore confidence among the people of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.