

NISHAD) : (a) The Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a comprehensive scheme on Joint Forest Management to the office of the Prime Minister on 31.10.1995 with a request to accord clearance and allot the required budget under Employment Generation Schemes of the Government of India. The total financial outlay of Rs. 1965 crores has been proposed for covering an area of 743000 hectare under joint forest management over a period of six years from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Joint Forest Management schemes framed within the guidelines issued by the Government of India on 1st June, 1990 do not require clearance by the Government of India. The State Government has already been advised to implement the scheme for raising of fuelwood, fodder and forest based fruit trees and non-timber forest produce within the available budget resources under various plantation schemes including World Bank aided project.

Rajiv Gandhi Murder Probe

4016 SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the progress made so far in the probe of Rajiv Gandhi murder case; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the probe?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The material is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Quarrying of Rocks

4017 SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale and unrestricted quarrying of rocks as well as removal of the sand and silt throughout the country including Krishna river side thereby threatening the ecology and environment; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Being minor minerals, quarrying of rocks, ordinary sand and soil are controlled and regulated by State Governments for mineral concession purposes. Further, to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of unrestricted quarrying of rocks, sand and silt by river sides in the Coastal Regulation Zone, a Gazette Notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued on 19th February, 1991 which inter alia regulates such activities in the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters. Also, wherever quarries and extraction of sand from forest lands are involved, provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines are applicable.

Foreign Visits by Government Officials and Ministers

4018 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have plans to effect economies in expenditure on foreign of the government officials and ministers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Travels abroad are expensive and also cause disruption in work. Instructions have been issued that foreign visits must be kept to the barest minimum. It has also been provided that when Parliament is in session, foreign travels should, as far as possible, be avoided.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion Work on Lucknow-Sitapur-Bareilly Section

4019 SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for not commencing the gauge conversion work, so far on Lucknow-Sitapur-Melani-Bareilly section meter gauge rail line despite the fact that survey in this regard was made many years back; and

(b) the time expected to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) This is not yet a sanctioned project. Moreover, no survey for conversion of this line was done in the past. However, conversion of this line has been included in the first phase of the Action Plan and is planned to be taken up in the 9th Plan Period.

Construction of New Bridge

4020. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether all old cemented poles are lying useless after the construction of a new bridge for the passage of the rail line on the small river Gandak between Nonapar, Bhatpar and Rani Stations in the Gorakhpur Division;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to hand over such old poles to the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to construct a bridge on the said poles in the public interest for passage thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(e) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Stoppage of Purushottam Express

4021. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give a stoppage to Purushottam Express in both the directions at Parasnath Station of the Dhanbad Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing facilities for this important pilgrimage place of Jains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No such proposal at present

(b) Does not arise

(c) Availability of alternative train services

[*Translation*]

Doubling of Rail Line from Daund to Manmad

4022. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct double line on the Daund-Manmad section;

(b) if so, the time by which it would be converted into double line;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to electrify the Daund-Manmad rail line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Doubling of single line sections is taken up when the carrying capacity of the section gets saturated, freight intensive sections being given priority. The present capacity available on Daund-Manmad section is considered adequate to meet the current level of traffic.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal to electrify Daund-Manmad rail line.

[*English*]

Improvement of Passenger Amenities,

4023. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Members of Parliament for improvement and extension of amenities to the passengers at railway stations in the Asansol Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) - Yes, Sir. These representations are regarding provision/augmentation of various passenger amenities at some of the stations in Asansol Division.

(c) The Railway stations in Asansol Division are already provided with the facilities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled at each station. Further augmentation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous process and is undertaken, whenever so warranted based on the volume of traffic handled at the stations, overall availability of funds and other relative priorities.

[*Translation*]

Private Catering Service in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express

4024. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is private catering services in the Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains;

(b) whether the Government are incurring loss of crores of rupees due to the illegal use of Government electricity for cooking of food by these private contractors in connivance with the railway authorities; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a high level investigation in this regard and if so, the time by which?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Houses for Fishermen

4025. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :