

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air Traffic Controllers Guild had pointed out some difficulties in implementing the bifurcated route. The bifurcation was neither faulty nor dangerous to flight safety. However, the matter has since been resolved by some marginal realignment.

D.D.P. in Rajasthan

312. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had sanctioned Desert Development Programme Project during 1997-98 for stopping further increase of sand in desert districts of Rajasthan by tree plantation;

(b) whether the State Government and the Forest Development did not prepare any project in this regard and the D.D.P. project was stopped by the Union Government and the Cluster Development project started during 1995-96 ;

(c) whether the project Aravali tree plantation being run with the financial help of Japan Government has not yet been started in the State ; and

(d) whether the Union Government are considering grant of budget, for desert districts so that spread of sand is contained and tree palntation done on priority basis in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU):

(a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has sanctioned Desert Development Programme in Rajasthan for Watershed development which includes plantations.

(b) Desert Development Programme has not been stopped in the State of Rajasthan.

(c) Government of Rajasthan have informed that the Aravali Plantation project is being implemented in Desert districts of Sikar, Jhun Jhun, Nagaur and Pali.

(d) Government of India is regularly releasing grant to identified districts of the state to combat desertification. During current financial year, about Rs.24 crores for this purpose have been released to the State.

Review of Railway project in Maharashtra

313. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the progress of major railway projects launched during 1996-97 in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and allocation of funds made for these projects during the current year, project-wise;

(c) whether the funds provided are far too inadequate for the timely completion of works resulting in cost and time escalation; and

(d) if so, the details of additional funds sought and likely to be made available ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The current status of the projects launched during 1996-97 in Maharashtra, together with the allocation made for these projects during 1997-98, are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of Project	Cost	Outlay For 1997-98	Current Status
1	2	3	4
NEW LINE			
1. Panvel-Karjat	89.00	1.00	Land acquisition for the project, which has since been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has been completed. Work on long lead items is being taken up .
2. Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaijnath	353.00	1.00	Clearance of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has been received. Land acquisition plans and papers have been submitted to the state Government and work would be progressed, once they make available the land.
GAUGE CONVERSION			
3. Jabal pur -Gondia including Balaghat	356.00	1.00	Clearance of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has been received. Final