

[English]

#### Train between Kanyakumari to New Delhi

2135. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a direct train between Kanyakumari to New Delhi via Madurai;

(b) if so, the proposed date of its introduction and details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Paradeep Phosphates Limited

2136. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Paradeep Phosphates Limited could not utilise its 50% production capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned financial assistance to modernise this unit for increasing its production capacity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). The capacity utilisation of Paradeep Phosphate Limited (PPL) for the last five years is given below :

Year	%age capacity utilisation
1991-92	89.1
1992-93	72.7
1993-94	53.5
1994-95	97.9
1995-96	85.2

After decontrol of phosphatic fertilizer in August, 1992, the prices of phosphatic fertilizers in the open market went up sharply, leading to decline in consumption, and ultimately their production. Hence, the capacity utilisation went down in 1993-94, but improved in the subsequent years.

(c) and (d). The details of the financial assistance provided by the Government to PPL through budgetary support in the form of plan-loan, to enable the company to meet its capital requirement of funds for carrying out

renewals/replacement in the plant, during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (BE) are given below :

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1994-95	6.00
1995-96	16.00
1996-97 (BE)	16.00

#### Fly-Overs at Siliguri

2137. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people of Siliguri have demanded the construction of two railway fly-overs in and around the city; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from representatives of people for construction of Road Over Bridges at Mahabirthan near Siliguri Town and at Siliguri Junction. However, State Government has not been able to finalise the alignment of Road Over bridge at Siliguri Town on account of difficulty of removal of encroachments and land acquisition for the construction of approaches. No proposal has been made by State Government for Road Over Bridge at Siliguri Junction.

#### New Railway Line from Nalgonda to Macherla

2138. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed to the Union Government for laying of new Railway line from Nalgonda to Macherla via Nagarjuna Sagar;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if so, the time by which the final approval would be given by the Government in the matter; and

(d) if not, the main reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). It has not been found possible to consider construction of this line at this stage, due to acute constraint of resources.

#### Mobilisation of Funds by Railways

2139. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of capital mobilised by the Railways

through Railway Bonds in the years 1995-96 and in the current year; and

(b) the targets had been fixed for the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways is mobilising capital through bonds. During the year 1995-96, the amount of capital mobilised by IRFC is Rs. 520.23 crore. In addition, the Corporation also mobilised US \$ 70 million through External Commercial Borrowing.

For the current year, IRFC has commenced mobilisation of funds and is in the market for the first tranche of Rs. 400 crore through private placement which has started on 5th July, 1996.

(b) The targets fixed for 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

1995-96 : Rs. 1350 crore excluding Rs. 900 crore by way of Build Operate Lease and Transfer (BOLT) and Own Your Wagon schemes from Rs. 2250 crore shown in Explanatory Memorandum to Railway Budget.

1996-97 : Rs. 1850 crore including External Commercial borrowing.

#### Subsidy for Crops

2140. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy on growing bajra, maize and some other crops;

(b) if so, the names of crops on which subsidy is proposed to be provided; and

(c) the amount of the subsidy proposed to be provided for growing those crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Integrated Cereals Development Programme with a cropping systems approach provide for financial assistance with a view to increase the production and productivity of Bajra, Jowar, small millets and other cereal crops namely, maize, wheat and rice. Incentives are provided for certified seeds farm implements and front-line demonstration on crop production technology, Integrated Pest Management etc.

(c) The thrust of the Programme for the crops mentioned in the reply to parts (a) and (b) above is transfer of technology and increasing production and productivity. The expenditure on major components of the schemes is shared between Government of India

and the States on 75:25 basis. The Central funds allocated for the year 1996-97 for the Programme is about Rs. 86 crores.

[Translation]

#### Development of Sarguja

2141. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any steps for the development and to increase production of Sarguja in view of the great demand of oil derived from Sarguja in the foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam and Manipur for the development of Niger (Sarguja) cultivation in the country for increasing its production and the productivity. Under the Programme, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, Rhizobium culture, Gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements etc. In addition, front-line and general demonstrations are conducted on farmers fields to transfer the production technology.

Besides National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD Board) has also started the programmes for promoting niger cultivation in non-traditional areas of Assam and Maharashtra from 1993-94.

[English]

#### Computerisation of Railway Services

2142. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which computerisation has been introduced in the Railways, especially in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend computerisation in other parts of Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Computerisation has been introduced in such railway services as passenger reservations, issue of unreserved tickets, and answering on telephone of enquiries concerning reservation status and train arrivals/departures. Computerised reservation services have been provided at all stations having a workload of 300