

Further consideration of the project would depend upon the results of survey and availability of resources.

Encroachment on Railway Land

3116. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of the land of North East Frontier Railways under illegal possession of the encroachers, location-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to remove the encroachers; and

(c) the extent of annual loss incurred by NEF Railway on account of the unauthorised encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 304 hectares of railway land is under illegal occupation of encroachers on N.E. Railway. The Division-wise break-up is as under :

Division	Area (Ha)
Alipurduar	133
Tinsukia	17
Katihar	19
Lumding	86
Maligaon	49

(b) Measures are taken by the Railway Administration to remove the encroachments within the ambit of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and with the cooperation of State Government.

(c) No loss has been sustained as these lands were kept vacant for railway's future developmental programme.

Forest offences

3117. SHRIMATI MENAKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to unaffected and laxity in implementation of the various Forest Laws and Acts, the forest offences are increasing;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce Forest Laws and Acts effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No report of increase in forest offences due to laxity in implementation of Forest Laws and Acts has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure better implementation of Forest Laws and Acts following steps have been taken by the Government :

(i) Strengthening of Regional offices of the Ministry for monitoring and/or increased liaison with State/Union Territory Governments.

(ii) Financial assistance to State/Union territory Governments for strengthening protection and communication network.

(iii) Institution of schemes of rewards and incentives for detection of forest offences, including poaching of wild animals, in some of the States.

(iv) Promotion of people's participation in protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management.

(v) Constitution of Social Audit Panel to assess the programmes of this ministry and suggest corrections where necessary.

Railway Station of Surendranagar

3118. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large area of land of old railway station of Surendranagar is lying unused after shifting it to the new site;

(b) if so, the total areas of this land and number of structures made thereon; and

(c) the time by which the station at the new site would become functional?

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

(b) A total of 24.69 hectare land is lying surplus due to the conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge and shifting of the metre gauge line from the city area to an outside location. The total area of the two buildings thereon is 1146.56 Sq. Mt.

(c) The station at the new site has started functioning.

Mushroom Cultivation

3119. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase areas under mushroom cultivation in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) whether Central assistance is being extended to various States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States where mushroom cultivation has been under taken during the Eighth Plan;

(e) the States where mushroom cultivation is proposed to be extended during 1996-97; and

(f) the details of the steps being taken in this regard in Orissa?

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation with a total outlay of Rs. 15.68 crores during the current Plan. The components of the Scheme are setting up of 36 Spawn production units (@ Rs. 11.5 lakh per unit); 35 pasteurised compost units (@ Rs. 28.5 lakhs per unit) and providing training to 27,200 farmers to promote mushroom production in different States.

(d) The States/Union Territories where mushroom production is reported to be underway during Eighth Plan are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(e) All the States listed under '(d)' above.

(f) The State of Orissa has been allocated a sum of Rs. 43.60 lakhs for setting up of one Spawn production one pasteurised compost unit and training of 600 farmers.

Conversion of Coach into Saloon

3120. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coach No. 6268 has been converted into a saloon in Ratlam Division of the Western Railway.

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the authority under which conversion was done alongwith the expenditure incurred on the same;

(d) the per day loss of the earnings by withdrawal of the said Coach; and

(e) whether any other Coach has been provided in the said train as a replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). One composite first-cum-second class coach built 22 years ago has since been converted into a mobile training-cum-inspection car for imparting training to staff at road side stations and for inspection.

(c) Conversion was made by divisional authorities at a cost of about Rs. 50,000/-.

(d) Such data for individual coach is not available.

(e) No, Sir. This composite coach was running by passenger trains. Railways have as a policy, stopped manufacturing first class (full and composite) coaches and therefore the existing ones from passenger and Mail/Express trains are being withdrawn gradually.

Rail Lines in Kerala

3121. SHRI O. BHARATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing rail lines in Kerala are as old as fifty years and more; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to modernise the rail lines in order to make them safe?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Electrification of Railway Routes

3122. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rail routes likely to be electrified during the current year, State-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the rail electrification work in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The rail routes/sections of railways likely to be electrified during the current year i.e. by 31.03.1997 are as under :

Section	Route Kilometre	Railway Zone	State
1	2	3	4
1. Tori-Patraru-Chainpur (Part of Sonnagar-Patraru and Gumia-Patraru)	101	Eastern	Bihar
2. Mandi Govindgarh-Ludhiana (Part of Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana)	46	Northern	Punjab
3. Walayar-Shoranur (Part of Erode-Ernakulam)	72	Southern	Kerala
4. Karkend-Jamadoba (Part of Jamadoba-Mohuda)	08	South Eastern	West Bengal
5. Bondamunda-Barsuan/ Kiriburu	105	South Eastern	Orissa Bihar