

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

(b) As per the policy, the doubling of the single line section is taken up to improve the carrying capacity, freight intensive sections being given priority.

The present level of traffic on Ambari Falakata to Aliporeduar/New Alipurduar Sections does not justify doubling of this line. However, Gauge Conversion of Siliguri-Bongaigaon Section is likely to be taken up in the coming years to serve as a double line between Jalpaiguri and Aliporerdaur stations.

Ban on Export of Potatoes

3053. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of potatoes grown in West Bengal has been banned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for lifting the ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to this?

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

(b) The ban had been imposed due to presence of potato wart disease which requires strict domestic plant quarantine measures to check further spread of disease.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the disease is still prevalent, it will not be in the interest of potato cultivation in other parts of the country to relax the domestic quarantine measures at this stage.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Cabinet Ministers

3054. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the salaries, allowances, accommodation and tours of the Cabinet Ministers during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any amendment in these facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) A statement containing the requisite information pertaining to salaries, allowances and tours is enclosed. Information in regard to accommodation is being collected.

(b) and (c). No proposal to make any change in these facilities is under consideration at present.

STATEMENT

The expenditure on Council of Ministers for past 3 years

Year	Salaries (in Rs.)	Allowances (in Rs.)	Tours (in Rs.)
1993-94	19,01,488	57,50,081	30,35,96,088
1994-95	23,61,709	61,71,821	40,32,50,659
1995-96	22,83,230	69,31,809	39,98,61,828

[English]

Hazardous Industries

3055. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted about the hazardous industries located in Delhi and implementation of the safety regulations by these units;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the faulty units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). As per information made available by the Chief Inspector of Factories, National Capital Territory of Delhi, during 1991-93 inspections of 113 identified hazardous factories covered under the Factories Act, 1948, were carried out. Improvement notices were issued to these factories for rectification of certain discrepancies observed during inspections.

During 1991-93 a total of 163 challans were filed in the Court of the Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi against the defaulting units. A sum of Rs.1.228 lakh was imposed as fine by the court on the challans decided during this period.

20 major Accident Hazard (MAH) units were identified in Delhi and a rapid safety audit conducted to suggest risk reduction measures under a scheme entitled, "Industrial Pocketwise Hazard Analysis" in 1996. The reports of the survey have been made available to all the MAH units.

Setting up of Cashew Board

3056. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Cashew Board;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Cashew Board; and

(c) the time by which the said board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Kidnappings

3057. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about thirty girls and boys have been kidnapped over the past two months on the banks of Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a majority of the people in this area are migrants from Bangladesh;

(d) if so, whether they have been granted citizenship; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. According to the information received from the Delhi Police, three girls and one boy were reported to have been kidnapped from the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi during June and July 1996. The three girls in question have since been recovered.

(c) to (e). There is a mixed population at the Yamuna Pusta/Bank. On identification, illegal migrants are deported back to the country of their origin. The number of Bangladeshi national deported from this area during 1995 and 1996 (upto 31.7.1996) was 183 and 47 respectively.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Junior Accounts Assistant

3058. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the employment notice dated August 21, 1995 Railways Recruitment Board, Bhopal have recruited ex-servicemen to the post of Jr. Account Assistant;

(b) if so, whether the Quota of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes has been filled up;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action against those found guilty for flouting the rules; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

3059. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Canalloop metre gauge rail line of Shri Ganganagar, Suratgarh-Ramsingh nagar Rail line and Shri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh Rail line into broad gauge rail lines as the farmers and businessmen have been facing difficulties in transportation of their goods; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said rail-lines are likely to be converted into broad gauge?

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

(b) The work will be taken up and completed during 9th Plan period.

Mamad-Dhule-Nardana-Indore Rail Line

3060. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a long pending demand for Mamad-Dhule-Nardana-Indore rail line;

(b) whether the Ministry have sanctioned the estimates for this rail line in March, 1996;

(c) if so, details in this regard; and

(d) the time likely to be taken for completion thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) to (d). Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for construction of new BG line from Mamad to Shirpur via Malegaon, Dhule and Nardana are currently in progress. Further consideration of the projects will be possible, once the results of the surveys become available.

Due to constraint of resources, the proposal for extension of the BG line from Shirpur to Indore has not been taken up for consideration.