

Replacement of Old Tracks

2367. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there are several old and outdated Railway tracks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No Sir. Track renewal is a continuous process. Railway tracks are not classified as old and outdated. Tracks warranting renewal on age-cum-condition basis are renewed through regular track renewal programmes.

All out efforts are being made by Indian Railways to liquidate all arrears of overdue renewals by accelerating the renewals. During Eighth Plan 14203 km of track was renewed, and during 1997-98, 2950 km. Track was renewed.

Provision of Escalators at Vijayawada Railway Station

2368. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a budgetary provision of Rs. 1.7 crores was made in the Railway Budget for 1996-97 to provide escalators at Vijayawada station and a foundation stone was also laid by the Minister of State for Railways on September 1996;

(b) if so, the work has been started on the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) An outlay of Rs. 1.12 crore was provided during 1996-97 as against the total anticipated cost of Rs. 1.60 crore for the work of "Providing escalators at Vijayawada and Secunderabad". Foundation stone was laid at Vijayawada Railway Station in September 1996 by the then Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir. Planning and Design for the work has been completed and any outlay of Rs. 67.21 lakh has been proposed in 1998-99 budget for this work.

(c) does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitation Centres for War Widows

2369. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the rehabilitation Centres for War widows set up in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated to these Centres during the last two years till May, 1998 and the details of the activities carried out by these Centres;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints/reports of irregularities in these Centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II

2370. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has taken a decision to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation for executing the rail projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II;

(b) whether the MOU in this regard has been signed between the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said Corporation has since been set up; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND