

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct rail line from Lalitpur to Singrauli;

(b) if so, whether the survey of the above line has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work on the above rail line is likely to be undertaken?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A new rail line from Lalitpur to Singrauli has been included in the Budget, 1997-98. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

[English]

Ring Railway System in Bangalore

1369. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a long pending demand for the construction of a Ring Railway System in Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No proposal for construction of Ring Railway System in Bangalore has been received from Government of Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

Commercialisation of Railway Land

1370. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to utilise the surplus railway land for commercial purposes and improving infrastructural facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified such surplus land and infrastructures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to construct Railway quarters for their employees on encroached surplus land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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 (d) No, Sir. Railways do not have any surplus land. The land lying vacant with the railways is required for future expansion and developmental works. Railways have, however, proposed commercial utilisation of air-space over railway structures/yards in order to augment its resources. One such project has been identified at Bandra.

(e) to (f) Do not arise.

Projects under CAPART

1371. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of projects taken up under the Central assistance for Council of Advancement of Rural Technology in Karnataka during the last three years; and

(b) details of Progress achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAODA PATIL) : (a) The Council for advancement of Rural Technology (CART) which used to provide central assistance for implementation of projects for advancement of Rural Technology and the People's Action for Development (India) (PADII), were amalgamated in the year 1986 to constitute Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). Under the scheme of Advancement of Rural Technology CAPART has provided assistance for implementation of seven projects in Karnataka during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) for which an amount of Rs.45.5 lakh was sanctioned.

(b) (i) Physical Progress:

Out of seven projects, one project has been completed and the remaining six are at various stages of implementation.

(ii) Financial Progress:

Out of Rs.45.5 lakh sanctioned, an amount of Rs.25.43 lakh has been released.

Reserve of Precious Metal

1372. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether reserves of several precious metals have been discovered in Himalayan region through a survey conducted some years back;