

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) Government had decided to set up 8 new divisions including one at Pune. An Officer-on-Special Duty has been positioned with powers of Divisional Railway Manger as appropriate for setting up of the division.

(e) to (h) The jurisdiction of Pune Division has been finalised on 25.1.1999 as under:—

Stations in-between

Pune-Lonavala Station (excluding Lonavala)

Pune-Baramati Station (excluding Daund)

Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur Station.

Linking of State Capitals with Delhi by Rail

1443. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State capitals of the North-Eastern States have not been linked with Delhi by Rail; and

(b) if so, 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only Guwahati, the capital of Assam is linked with Delhi by rail. Regarding other North Eastern States, construction of Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala, the capital of Tripura and from Harmuti to Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh has already been taken up. All clearances have been received for construction of new line from Diphu to Karong as the first phase of the rail link to Imphal, the capital of Manipur and Gauge conversion of line from Katakhal to Baraibhi as the first phase of line to Sairong/Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram and work is being started on these projects. Further phases would be considered in the coming years. A survey for construction of a rail line to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim has been sanctioned. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. Rail links to the capitals of Meghalaya and Nagaland would be considered during the coming years.

Raytheon Radar

1444. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of doubts about the performance of Raytheon Radar expressed by Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs), the radar has been put into operation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any defect has been detected after putting this radar into operation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ATCs have refused to take any responsibility for air safety of passengers by commissioning of this radar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The new radar system was made operational from 11th January, 1999 after carrying out various tests including System Site Acceptance Test (SSAT), Shake down test, and running the system for shadow operations. There were some teething problem inherent in the commissioning of a new project and these have been taken care of. However, any malfunction which is noticed, will be attended to by the trained technical personnel of Airports Authority of India as well as that of M/s. Raytheon as per the system of warranty for the equipments.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Cancellation of Trains

1445. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schedule of many trains have been suffered due to bad weather in the country during December, 1998 to February, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, train-wise alongwith the loss suffered thereby;

(c) whether some incidents in which property of the Railways been damaged by the public has been reported;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the loss of property damaged therein; and