

**Uneconomic Branch Lines**

8768. SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the uneconomic Branch Line Committee had recommended for abolition of certain uneconomic Branch lines;

(b) if so, the names of those railway lines;

(c) whether his Ministry had examined the report and taken a decision thereon; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Uneconomic Branch Lines committee, 1969 recommended that the following lines served no useful purpose and could be closed down;

1. Jorhat- Neamati
2. Lataguri - Famshai.
3. Kunkurav - Derdi.
4. Than - Chotila
5. Hadmatiya - Jodiya
6. Madurai - Bodinayakanur.
7. Walajah Road - Ranipettai.

(c) and (d). Further review was made by the Railway Reforms Committee in 1983 and than- Chotila, Hadmatifya - Jodiya and Kunkuvav- Derdi lines have been closed down. Jorhat- Neamati portion of Mariani- Jorhat- Neamati section has been abandoned due to non-offering of traffic and excessive damage to non-offering of traffic and excessive damage to track.

**Allotment of Catering Stalls**

8767. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the established norms adopted for allotment of the catering stalls at railways stations;

(b) whether there is any limit of the period of which the licences are given; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Allotment of catering/vending contracts is made by the Zonal Railways after following prescribed procedure. The main terms and conditions are that the persons applying for the licence have sufficient experience, general capability to manage the unit, sound financial standing and character. Smaller contracts of 1/2 units are exclusively reserved for SCs/STs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The normal tenure of these contracts is five years.

**Rail Line Between Bhuj and Nalia**

8770. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line between Bhuj and Nalia in Kutch district of Gujarat has been laid;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the track has been tested for running trains on it;