

(b) if so, whether this proposal involves import of special locos;

(c) whether the coupling of obsolete models of wagons which cannot move at higher speeds with modern Box type wagons is one of major causes of slow movement of goods trains; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider disposal of these old type wagons and use of only modern Box wagons before importing locos for faster movement of goods trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Trials are proposed to be conducted for running 9000 tonnes freight trains.

(b) No special locomotives are considered necessary for 9000 tonne trains per se.

(c) No Sir, the modern BOX type wagons and the old conventional wagons have been more or less completely segregated.

(d) The older type of wagons will be condemned on completion of their normal useful life.

Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation

*439. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation during the Seventh Plan for monitoring and adequately meeting the financial needs of the country's road transport;

(b) if so, whether its modalities have been worked out;

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the capital outlay involved;

(d) whether this Corporation will also cover rural road transport particularly in the backward areas; and

(e) if so, whether to meet the transport requirements of the rural areas, funds will be made available by this Corporation to the State Governments concerned or the plan envisages setting up of Road Transport Development Finance State Corporations also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). One of the proposals concerning Road Transport for inclusion in the 7th Plan is about setting up of a Central Road Transport Development Finance Corporation, which can act as an agency to assist the State Road Transport Undertakings by way of loan finance to enable them to acquire new buses, and related infrastructure. A final view in this regard is yet to be taken as the Seventh Five Year Plan is yet to be finalized.

Inchampally Project

*440. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have submitted for clearance a project proposal on Inchampally as a joint venture between 3 States and if so, present status of the proposal ; and

(b) whether a joint high power meeting is proposed to be held early and other follow up action, such as formation of a Control Board, taken up including decision on implementation agency ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under discussions among the State Governments concerned.

Late running of Kerala bound long distance express trains from Delhi

*441. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the long distance express trains going to Kerala from Delhi are usually running many hours late ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether his Ministry has launched any special drive to avoid the late running of trains particularly on long routes ; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Punctuality of these trains is being monitored at the Zonal and Divisional level. Two trains—Kerala Express and Himsagar Express—are being monitored by the Railway Board as well, and instructions have been given to improve the punctuality performance of these trains further.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of bridge into Rail-cum-Road bridge on Saryu River

*442. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bridge on Saryu river near Manjhi Railway Station (North Eastern Railway) which connects Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and on which a lot of economic development of Western Bihar

and Eastern Uttar Pradesh depends, is available only for rail traffic ;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to convert this bridge into a rail-cum-road bridge ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Railways have not received any such proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government who will have to bear the cost, if found technically feasible.

[*English*]

Panar River Scheme

*443. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Panar River Scheme has since been completed ; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). No scheme on Panar River, as such, has been received from the Government of Bihar. However, a scheme known as "Parman Flood Control Scheme" is under consideration of the State Government. Panar river is a tributary of this river system.

Geothermal resources

*444. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State-wise geothermal resources data have been collected ;