

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : As far as the occupancy is concerned, in the year 1987-88 the occupancy was 74%, in the year 1986-87 the occupancy was 72%; and in the preceding years the occupancy was definitely less. But in the coming years we have increased the occupancy also.

As regards Centeur Hotel, Delhi our operating profit was Rs. 201 lakhs and the interest we had to pay was Rs. 148 lakhs. The cash profit was Rs. 53 lakhs. The depreciation that we had to pay amounted to Rs. 72 lakhs. After paying depreciation, after giving interest the loss is only Rs. 19 lakhs in the year 1997-88. We are trying to improve the occupancy. We are going to take other measures also.

Railway siding at Dhrangadhra Gujarat

*860. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received for a railway siding at Dhrangadhra in Gujarat for the development of the salt industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat has requested the railways to prepare plans and estimates for the construction of a 2 1/2 to 3 kilometre long broad gauge along the existing 21 kilometre long Dhrangadhra Kuda metre gauge siding. The work is in hand.

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : I compliment the Hon. Minister for the work which is on hand. May I ask whether this project when completed will be funded by the Railways and the investment recovered from the Salt Commissioner which is with the Ministry of Industry or will it be a deposit scheme; and how much will it cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : I cannot yet tell the Hon. Member as to how much it will cost because that is why the plans and estimates are being drawn up to arrive at such a figure. As far as funding is concerned it has been our suggestion either the Salt Department or the Government of Gujarat finance the siding. We have yet to receive the response as far as funding is concerned. I think, this issue will be taken up after plans and estimates have been drawn up.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : I would like to ask a policy question. If a Ministry, which in this case is the Industry Ministry, guarantees the paying back of the investment made by the Railways, then would it have priority in the budget of the Railways ? Here the question is that the Salt Commissioner will undertake repayment of the investment from the Salt Cess provided the investment is made by the Railways for this siding.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : At present there is no such existing policy of the Railways. However, the suggestion of the hon. Member will certainly be noted.

SHRI CHIRNJI LAL SHRMA : May I know from the Railway Minister what the criteria for making provision for a railway siding and also in this context will he kindly let us know if our request for a siding at Smalkha in the North Eastern Railway is under consideration ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would require a separate notice for this.

Brain-Drain of IIT graduates

*861. SARI S.B. SIDNAL :
SHRI G S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a pilot study on magnitude and nature of the brain-drain of graduates of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has been conducted;