

[*Translation*]

Routing of Proposed Bombay - Varanasi Superfast Express Via Jaunpur - Faizabad - Sultanpur - Allahabad

SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Superfast Express proposed to be introduced between Bombay and Varanasi from 1 May, 1988 is proposed to be routed via Jaunpur - Faizabad - Sultanpur - Allahabad;

(b) whether the Ministry have received any memorandum to that effect; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been decided that once a week the train will run between Bombay and Faizabad via Allahabad, Pratapgarh and Sultanpur.

[*English*]

Level of Pollution in Ganges

6071. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area along the course of river Ganges where the extent of pollution is maximum in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal separately; and

(b) the percentage of increase or decrease in the level of pollution during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R.ANSARI): (a) From the survey of the Ganga basin carried out by the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution on which the Ganga Action Plan is based, it is seen that about 75% of the pollution of the river Ganga is from discharge of untreated domestic wastes into the river from the different towns situated along the river. Out of the total domestic wastes discharged into the river, about 88% is from 27 Class- I cities (population over one lakh). Considering the quantity of domestic waste estimated to be flowing into the river Kanpur, Allahabad and Varanasi stretches in U.P., Patna stretch in Bihar and Calcutta Metropolitan District in West Bengal can be regarded as the areas along the course of the river where the extent of pollution is high.

(b) No study about the percentage of increase or decrease in the level of pollution during the last three years has been carried out under the Ganga Action Plan. Impact of schemes taken up under the Ganga Action Plan will be known only after their completion. Most of the schemes for interception and diversion of waste water under the Action Plan are expected to be completed by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Plantation of Palm Trees

6072. SHRI B.B.RAMAIHAH:
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of hectares of land along the east coast are lying barren;

(b) whether this land is suitable for palm tree plantation;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed a project to take up Palm Plantation on these lands; and

(d) whether the National Wasteland Development Board will make available funds for this project in view of the huge import bill on edible oils every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS:(SHRI Z.R.ANSARI) (a) Details of the extent areas of land along the East Coast lying barren are not available.

(b) Some area along the East Coast is reportedly covered with palm plantation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Talcher — Sambalpur Railway Line

6073. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land acquisition work at Talcher — Sambalpur railway project has been completed;

(b) if so, the number of villages falling on this railway line where land acquisition work has been completed;

(c) the compensation paid to the affected persons; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Land has been acquired at Sambalpur end in 19 villages and at Talcher end in 28 villages. Rs.2.66 crores has been placed at the disposal of State Government, who have so far paid about Rs.2.07 crores to the land owners.

Air Transportation arrangement between mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

6074. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any fixed air—service transportation arrangement for both passengers and the essential items of daily life between the mainland and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines is operating, at present, B-737 services to/from Port Blair and Car Nicobar as under:

i) Calcutta — Port Blair — Calcutta	—	Thrice weekly
ii) Calcutta — Port Blair — Car Nicobar and Return	—	One weekly
iii) Madras — Port Blair — Madras	—	4 times weekly
