

Passenger and Freight Capacity

566. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the passengers and the freight carrying capacities of Railways at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the capacity both for carrying freight and passengers;

(c) if so, the specific plan/long term plan drawn up by the Government; and

(d) the fund provision made or estimate made for meeting the cost towards increasing the passenger and freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) The passenger and freight carrying capacity depends on several factors such as the traffic offer, the productivity and reliability of assets, the seasonality of traffic, the efficiency of terminals, the traffic flows, law and order situation etc. Since a large number of variables are involved, it is not possible to give an absolute figure of capacity. However, on the basis of the anticipated traffic offer and the capacity of the Railways, the passenger traffic targets for the current year have been fixed at 332.66 billion passenger kms. and for freight traffic, the transport output targets have been fixed at 277.82 billion net tonne kms.

(b) and (c). The Railways have evolved a number of long term strategies for generating additional freight and passenger carrying capacity, such as gauge conversion, electrification, modernisation and technology upgradation, segregation of long distance from short lead passenger traffic, enhancement of loads of passenger and freight trains etc.

(d) For the current year, i.e. 1995-96, a plan size of Rs. 7500 crores has been proposed for meeting the passenger and freight requirements of the Railway.

Track Circuit

567. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Railway Safety Commission has suggested for providing track circuit on certain places;

(b) if so, whether such suggestions have been implemented; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As per recommendations of the Commission of Railway Safety, track circuits are being provided and the position as on 31.3.95 was as under :

- (i) Track circuiting provided from - 2866 stations
fouling marks to fouling mark
on main line
- (ii) Track circuiting provided from - 1271 stations
fouling mark to fouling mark
on loop lines
- (iii) Track circuiting provided from - 1285 stations
fouling mark to block section limit

Provision to track circuiting is an on-going process, and track circuiting works are included each year in the works programme.

Vaccine for Asthma

568. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new vaccine for Asthma has been developed recently in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any trial has been conducted on this vaccine; and

(d) the time by which this vaccine is likely to flood the market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Water Supply Scheme to Rajasthan

569. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has sent any project proposal under World Bank's financial assistance to improve the water supply in various districts;

(b) if so, the main features and cost thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to implement this project with the financial assistance of the World Bank; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN) : (a) and (b). The Government of Rajasthan has proposed to take up the following two schemes with the World Bank assistance :

(i) The Second Rajasthan Water Supply and Sewerage Project. This would provide water supply to Jaipur city including 3 enroute towns and 91 villages and the Sewerage system in Jaipur city costing Rs. 442.40 crores.

(ii) The project proposal of Water Supply & Sewerage for the 5 major towns of Rajasthan, viz., Ajmer, Bikaner, Kota, Jodhpur and Udaipur costing Rs. 2022.17 crores would augment and improve the water supply system in these 5 towns.

(c) Yes, Sir. But this would become possible only after these projects are sanctioned by the World Bank.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Improvement in Facilities

570. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to modernise and improve the catering facilities and retiring rooms at Alipurduar Junction and New Alipurduar, North Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (c). There is a plan for improving the general condition of the Retiring Rooms at these stations. As regards Catering services, the

existing facilities are considered adequate.

Production of Newsprint

571. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of newsprint is in accordance with its demand;

(b) if not, the quantity of paper imported during the last three years;

(c) the estimated quantity of newsprint needed by the end of the century and the steps being taken to meet the requirement;

(d) whether the Indian mills are producing the paper as per their installed capacity; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Import of newsprint and paper during the last three years is as follows :

Year	Quantity (lakh tonnes)	
	Newsprint	Paper
1992-93	2.43	00.39
1993-94	3.11	00.47
1994-95	2.92	00.60

(c) The estimated quantity of newsprint needed by the end of the century would be around 9 lakh tonnes. Government has taken the following steps to meet the requirement :

(i) An additional capacity of 6.55 lakh tonnes by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent has been sanctioned since 1989.

(ii) Under the new Industrial Policy, newsprint units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory Industrial Licensing subject to locational policy. As a result of this 38 IEMs for a total capacity of 19.55 lakh tonnes have been filled by the intending entrepreneurs for the manufacture of newsprint since August, 1991.