

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway services have been increased during the last two years ending December, 1987 in Punjab;

(b) whether there is any increase in the number of trains and carrying capacity of passengers as compared to that during the period prior to the last two years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). A review is undertaken for train services in every area twice in a year. As a result, services are augmented/curtailed according to the traffic requirements. During last two years two pair of trains, one between Ludhiana and Firozpur and another between Ludhiana-New Delhi have been provided, serving Punjab.

[Translation]

Over Bridge at Sagar

9742. SHRI NANDIAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether final approval has been accorded to the construction of an over bridge on the railway crossing near Kalpana Bhavan and Rahatgarh Bus Stand in Sagar city;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the estimated cost of this over bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). A proposal for the road-over-bridge in question is presently under preparation, jointly by the Railway and State authorities. After it is finalised and the State Government sponsors the work for being taken up, duly agreeing to share the cost thereof, the work will be

approved for inclusion in the Railways' Works Programme.

(c) Not available yet.

[English]

Extension of Venad Express upto Palghat

9743. SHRI P A ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the Venad Express from Shoranur to Palghat (Kerala); and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be extended?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Halt at Pulluru (SCR)

9744. SHRI C SAMBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a New Railway Halt at 'Pulluru' (Dornakal Junction to Bhadrachalam Road) of South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Award of "Arjuna Award"

9745. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the daily 'Jansatta' dated 18 January, 1988