

(a) whether a final decision on the configuration of the railway communication network using terrestrial and satellite linkages has been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this configuration is more economical than the one proposed by a team of West German consultants;

(d) whether any fees have been paid to the foreign consultants in this regard;

(e) whether the plan for a more economical configuration was presented by any Indian agency; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir. Some suggestions were made by Indian experts for economy either by curtailment of facilities or on cost sharing basis relevant only for a portion of the total railway network as recommended by the consultants.

(f) Does not arise.

River Service between Haldia and Allahabad

1603. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Inland Water

Transport Corporation proposes to run regular river service between Haldia and Allahabad; and

(b) if so, by what time such service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is running regular river service between Haldia/ Calcutta and Patna. The extension of this service beyond Patna upto Allahabad would be possible after navigability round the year on this stretch is established for which pilot project works is in progress.

Illegal felling of Trees in Gujarat

1604. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHODHARY:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
DR. SUDHIR ROY:
SHRI AMAL DATTA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether Environmentalists in Gujarat have represented to Union Government about the large scale illegal felling of trees and diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose in the State; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by Union Government to stop further denudation of forest in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following guidelines have been issued by the Central Government to the