

meet the entire urea demand indigenously. I would request the hon. Member that he should also pursue the matter with the Planning Commission.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Perhaps Hon'ble Member is not aware that these two factories situated in Punjab are not sick. Their performance is excellent. That is why I requested that these two factories which are showing good performance, are producing more than their installed capacity and have got awards also, should not face closure. The nation will suffer heavy losses if they close down.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is true and I have given my concurrence. I have forwarded it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is standing in the centre neither left nor right.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This observation will serve no purpose as the question has been put to the Central Government.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not use such language

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : The statement appended to the question reveals that the Union Territories have not received a fair deal. In the statement the figure against Andaman and Nicobar for the year 1994 is 1.24 and all other columns are blank. The inevitable conclusion is that the farmers of Andaman and Nicobar are not entitled to the subsidy on fertilizers. May be the hon. Minister is ignorant of the fact that the remote areas of the country and the union territories are an integral part of the the country. Will the hon. Minister make special arrangements for ensuring subsidy or fertilizers for remote area like Andaman and Nicobar islands so that the farmers in these areas may also avail of the the facility?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The dots in the statement against Andaman and Nicobar indicate that information has not been received and it should not be considered that nothing has been done.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Who will supply this information.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have to give the information and you have to receive the information. But I would still reiterate that if supplies are not being made in your area we will take necessary steps at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : It is not over yet this is a matter pertaining to fertilizers and the farmers require

it...*(Interruptions)* This is a very important question. Will the Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is indeed an important question. Everyone is interested in it. It is concerned with farmers. It would be better to have a half-an-hour discussion over it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want comprehensive reply outlining the steps taken in each state. It is for the Government to ensure equitable distribution of fertilizers among the various states and its supply to the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All this information can be elicited in the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This question has already taken 25 minutes. Please sit down.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will there be an end to it? I have already moved to the next question.

[Translation]

This question has already taken 25 minutes. Please discuss this subject in the form of some motion say half an hour discussion. Will we spend one hour on a single question?

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : In case you give us information about the areas where fertilizers are in short supply, we will order an enquiry...*(Interruptions)* you may please give the names of the areas where it is not available...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may resume your seat. Even if the Members continue to ask the question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not good. Please sit down. I am taking up the second question.

Computerised Reservation Centres

*182. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of computerised reservation centres in the country at present, Zone-wise;

(b) the names of stations where computerised reservation centres are proposed to be opened by the Government during 1996-97; and

(c) the estimated cost of setting up new computerised reservation centres at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) 275 (including 2 of the Annual Plan 1996-97). The Zone-wise information is given below :-

Northern Railway	-	52
Southern Railway	-	44
South Central Railway	-	42
Central Railway	-	34
Eastern Railway	-	33
Western Railway	-	30
South Eastern Railway	-	16
North Eastern Railway	-	15
Northeast Frontier Railway	-	9

(b) The locations (i.e. stations and satellite locations) where provision of computerised reservation facilities has been proposed in the Annual Plan for 1996-97 are :-

Stations

Bina	Cuddapah
Ahmednagar	Alleppey
Saugor	Mettupalayam
Wardha	Nagercoil
Bardhaman	Kanyakumari
Lal Kuan	Shencottah
Darbhanga	Mhow
Izatnagar	Veraval
Nainital	Valsed
Sonpur	Bharuch
Hajipur	Navsari
Modinagar	Nadiad
Panipat	

(Satellite Locations)

Ajni (Satellite location of Nagpur)
 Itwari (Satellite location of Nagpur)
 Varanasi City (Satellite location of Varanasi)
 Allahabad City (Satellite location of Allahabad)
 Lucknow City Station (Satellite location of Lucknow)
 Charbag (Alambag side Lucknow)
 Shakurbasti (Satellite location of New Delhi)
 Gurgaon (Satellite location of New Delhi)
 Lajpat Nagar (Satellite location of New Delhi)
 Sarai Rohilla (Satellite location of New Delhi)
 Tourista Bureau Jodhpur (Satellite location of Jodhpur)
 Mahamandir Jodhpur (Satellite location of Jodhpur)

M.V.P. Colony (Satellite location of Visakhapatnam)
 Gujawaka (Satellite location of Visakhapatnam)
 Bokaro Steel city (City Booking Office)
 St. Thomas Mount (Satellite location of Madras)
 Luz Corner (Satellite location of Madras)
 Chinthadripet MRTS (Satellite location of Madras)
 Coimbatore City (Satellite Location of Coimbatore)
 Madurai City (Satellite location of Coimbatore)
 Bandra (Satellite location of Mumbai)
 Vasai Road (Satellite location of Mumbai)
 Virar (Satellite location of Mumbai)
 Ghatkopar (Satellite location of Mumbai)
 Patna Sahib (Satellite location of Patna)
 Rajendranagar (Satellite location of Patna)

(Non Rail-head State Capitals)

Agartala
 Kohima

(c) Rs. 7.94 crores for the locations included in the Annual Plan for 1996-97.

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY : I would like to know the arrangements made to end overcrowding at the reservation centres and also to provide reservation facilities from any part of the country, by any train and for any destination. In case such facilities have been provided, what are the names of the prominent stations which have been covered under the arrangement.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : I would like to inform the hon. Member that we have computerised the reservation facilities and the entire country is launched by computer. Now the common man can avail of these facilities.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : My question was that although the entire country has been linked by computer, get the facility to make reservation from any part of the country for any destination is still not available at several stations. My second question relates to the number of district headquarters which are sought to be linked by computerised reservation. Has reservation facility been provided at Dist. Nautalwa and Siddharthnagar located at U.P.-Nepal border which attracts Buddhists pilgrims from abroad in sizeable number?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The information regarding the Railway stations and in non Rail-head state capitals where computerised reservation facility is proposed to be provided is provided in the reply to the question. Besides, it is proposed to provide computerised reservation facility in 53 new locations in 1996-97 comprising 25 Railway Stations, 26 satellite locations and 2 Rail head headquarters, so far, 72 per cent Railway reservations has been computerised. As regards the hon. Members query regarding reservation/

cancellation facility from any part of the country for any destination, the work is still in progress.

The scheme regarding linking the entire country with passenger Reservation System, the project will be undertaken later on but at present 92 percent of the reservation facility has been computerised on local basis.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : My question was whether it is proposed to provide computerised reservation facility at Nautalwa station on Indo-Nepal border for which a demand to connect it with broadgauge line is pending for several years?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : As per the norms laid down for computerised reservation facility for any place, the place must register 300 reservation/cancellation. It is being provided at all such stations which satisfy with norms.

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Is this facility available at Nautalwa or not?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If the place satisfies the norm laid down, the facility would be provided. I do not have the information about place for which information has been sought by the hon. Member. If the station satisfies the criterion of 300 reservations or cancellation, the reservation facility would definitely be provided...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if you go through the answer, you would find how much NF railways neglected in this respect.

Even in regard to computerisation, the figure given is nine. The NF Railway had no past, it has not present and it has not future also. Just now the hon. Minister of Railways informed the House about the normal that there should at least be reservation or cancellation of three hundred tickets. New Jalpaiguri railway station in NF Railway is the most busiest segment in the NF Railway zone. But what is the position of the railway station? We have asked for a computerised reservation centre for New Jalpaiguri. It was said that it would be set up in a satellite town. It was set up in Siliguri which is a satellite town and ten kilometres away from New Jalpaiguri. Of course, you are not the Minister of Railways then. But when we asked for a computerised reservation centre for Coochbehar which is a satellite town. It was set up in New Coochbehar. I would like to know very categorically from the hon. Minister what the norm is and what the criteria are. I would like to know whether my guidelines have been issued. If they are not there, is it only the pious wish of the Railway authorities? Let me know that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the norms laid down by the Railway Ministry,

North East has not received due attention. The hon. member may be aware that computerised reservation facilities are available at Shillong, Port Blair, Srinagar, Panji. We are also making arrangements to provide this facility at Gangtok, Itanagar, Aizawl, Imphal. As regards Coochbehar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What he wants to know is that when they requested for a computerised reservation centre for New Jalpaiguri, it was provided in Siliguri. And when they requested for a computerised reservation centre for Coochbehar, it was provided in New Coochbehar. Why is this discrepancy?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You had asked a question earlier also on the subject. On making queries, it was pointed out to me that the distance between the two stations is very small and at one of the place only 69 reservations are made and at the other station where the number of reservations is on the higher side, this facility has already been provided.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The distance between Siliguri, New Jalpaiguri, New Coochbehar and Coochbehar is almost the same.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I had also said the Coochbehar and New Coochbehar are adjacent to each other...*(Interruptions)* I assure the hon. Member that we are not very rigid about the rule and if necessity was felt we will amend it and provide the facility at more places.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : The purpose of computerised reservation is to extend better facilities to the public. But another fallout of this computerised reservation facility is that people travelling on other routes experience considerable difficulty. I would, therefore, request that unless and until all the stations are not connected by computer terminals, it would be in the fitness of things to continue the old system of reservation in the roadside station quota. Ujjain has been provided that facility but it is connected only with Mumbai Terminal. It has not been connected with Delhi, which should be done at the earliest. These facilities should also be made available at prominent stations viz. Neemuch, Mandoan. Besides, you have already connected that you have no rigid attitude regarding the enforcement of the rule. I would like to know your attitude in the aforesaid case.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We will bear in mind the suggestion and the demand made by you.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the proposed Plan allocation for the year 1996-97 is Rs.7,94,00,000. So, nearly Rs.8 crore is set apart for the year 1996-97. I feel that this is a meagre amount

and it is not a matching amount to meet the demands of all the Zonal Railways, namely, South Zone, Central Zone, North-East Zone, etc. Therefore, I am just requesting the hon. Minister to tell us whether there is any proposal to raise this Plan allocation for 1996-97 from Rs. 8 crore to a few more crores of rupees so as to enable them to meet the demands of all the Zonal Railways of the country.

Another question is this: I come from Karnataka and many more hon. members are here who are also coming from areas which are coming under the Southern Railway. Is there any proposal to sanction more money to have some more computerised centres in that Zonal Railway, including the one in my constituency of Shimoga?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards reservation, I have already stated that we purpose to computerise 92 percent of the reservation centres. As regards resource constraint, the Railways have always faced this problem whether it is gauge conversion, or laying new railway lines. We propose to connect every centre with the network within our resources.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : The South Central Railway had announced more than once that they would open a computerised reservation centre at Benz circle in the heart of Vijayawada City. Even when I met the General Manager, he said that it had been decided to open a centre there and that they were on the look out for a building. But the statement of the ministry does not include that. Will the hon. Minister clarify whether it is an omission or whether there is any rethinking or whether the South Central Railway has again acted irresponsibly by making announcements there and not pursuing them with the Railway Board?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The hon. Member has sent us a slip just now. According to the enquiries made by me this name does not occur anywhere. But still I will get of enquired into.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : It was announced more than once. I have the Press cutting and I met the General Manager also personally. He confirmed it and it came in the newspapers also. If the General Manager has announced it without any authorisation, he should be pulled up... (Interruptions) Sir, the hon. Minister is not responding to it... (Interruptions) He is not responding to what I said. Will the hon. Minister pull up the General Manager if he has made a unauthorised statement?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have no knowledge of Press reports on the subject, but in our records it does not find any mention. But in view of the submission made by the hon. Member, I would personally look into the matter and if necessary we will open a centre there.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Gujarat is an industrial state and is served by the Western railway. People from all over India visit the state because of its industrial and trade links with other parts of the country. The hon. Minister has stated in the reply that there are only 30 computerised reservation centres in the Western Railway and a demand has been made to open 12-13 more computerised reservation centres. As per the statement 52 centres are proposed to be opened in 1996-97 but not single centre, out of it, has been allocated to Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether computerised reservation centres would be opened in Sabarmati and North Gujarat on priority basis?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we cannot adopt a partisan attitude in the matter of setting up of computerised reservation centres. It is our earnest effort to provide maximum facilities to the passengers. We are prepared to promise computerised reservation facility in the metropolitan city areas. All the proposed centres conform to the criteria laid down by the Ministry of the Railways but if the Hon. Member feels it is very important, we may consider his suggestion.

[English]

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the issue of North-Eastern Railway has been rightly raised by my dear colleague, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan. The hon. Minister had stated in his reply that in Panjim, Srinagar and other places, he has provided the computerised reservation centres.

In view of the local trouble in Kashmir, at the moment, the largest traffic-flow next to Pradesha is in Darjeeling. The largest number of Indian and foreign tourists go to see the peak of the Himalayas from the Kanchenjunga Hills. Shri Subash Rishing has been crying for the last few years to provide at least the minimum facility of computerised reservation centre in Darjeeling itself to facilitate the tourists. But nothing has been done. That man has shown his loyalty to the Constitution of India and has remained peaceful.

I hope the hon. Minister of Railways will kindly consider this simple demand and provide a reservation centre in Darjeeling to accommodate the tourists. Otherwise, the problem is that the tourists have to come down, and pay a heavy amount without using the toy train. They go to Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri for reservation which is uncertain.

At the moment, Derjeeling is the prime tourist centre of India. Why do you not consider it on a priority basis? Why is your department neglecting it and not considering it as a tourist centre?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Therefore, I ask the Railway Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We are seized of the proposal and in view of the stress laid by the hon. Member, we will definitely consider it. An hon. Member had referred to Gujarat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It was about South Gujarat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : All right.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, I am sorry to know that even the district headquarters had not been provided with advanced computerised reservation system. For example in Pudukkottai is my constituency. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have got any proposal to introduce the advanced computerised reservation system at least in district headquarters within a reasonable time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the Railways what matters is the station and not the district or the State. We conduct the survey on the basis of the viability of the station. If it turns out to be viable, we definitely consider it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : With the installation of a mother computer we can connect all the stations of the country with the network. Computerisation carried out in this manner would also prove to be economical. How is it that Railways have not adopted this system? Secondly, whenever a fault is developed in any of the computerised reservation centres, it is not attended to promptly. I also create inconvenience for the public in the matter of reservation. My submission is, will the hon. Minister consider the suggestion for setting up a mother computer in order to connect all the stations with the network?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We will definitely get it examined and, if found useful, we will consider your proposal.

SHRI TARA CHAND SAHI : Bhilai Steel plant is the biggest steel plant not only in India but in entire Asia. The employees of the Plant belong to different parts of the country and many of them commute daily for their work. Besides, Bhilai not only pays crores of rupees to the exchequer but also meets the requirement of the railways to a large extent. But the railway station of Bhilai comprises a small dilapidated room and none of the express trains stops there. Despite being an important Station, it is neglected.

Will the hon. Minister accord it the status due to it?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The question relates to sitting up of computerised reservation centres and not beautification. Bhilai is an important station and if you give your suggestion in writing, I will get it examined.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply to part (a) of the question contains zone wise list. North Bihar is spread over an area sparring Gorakhpur to Nepal border. The area falls under NE Railway and the target of computerisation for the area is 15 in view of its backwardness. Will the hon. Minister consider increasing this target to ameliorate its backwardness?

There is lack of transparency in the matter of computerised reservation. Will the hon. Minister make arrangements to reflect the position of reservation on computer on lines similar to arrival and departure position of trains exhibited on the C.C.T.V.?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is the policy of the Government to show special consideration to the backward areas. In view of the fact that in the matter of laying railway lines backward areas receive priority, computerised reservation is a petty matter and will receive our attention. In my capacity as Railway Minister I concede that there have been complaints about computerised reservation and we do try to redress them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Even a metropolitan city like Delhi does not have computerised reservation facility at all the stations. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I had called Shri Chaman Lal Gupta.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jammu station enjoys a strategic position in as much as 40 lakh passengers from all over India arrive here every year and it has sizeable army base. As per the existing arrangement at the station, reservation can be made from Jammu to other stations and no provision has been made for return journey. This lack of facility of reservation for return journey causes a lot of inconvenience to the passengers and there is urgent need to provide this facility.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I shall look into the matter but I cannot make a commitment.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Sir, it is evident from this Railway Budget speech that his concern is to develop the backward areas of the country. As Sambalpur is the most backward area of Orissa which has a Railway Division, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the hon. Minister is going to consider opening of a computerised reservation centre in Sambalpur during 1996-97.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I cannot give an affirmative reply... (Interruptions) It is not possible to give an assurance but will consider it.

[Translation]

Privatisation by Railways

*183. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Departments and works where privatisation has been introduced by the Ministry and the results thereof;

(b) whether Jhansi Division has been divided by the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the operational limits of the new Divisions?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Indian Railways have not privatised any department under its control. The Railways have however, offered some of its off-line activities, not directly connected with train operations, to private parties like catering, beautification of stations, supply of bed rolls, operation of cloak rooms, etc. 'Own Your Wagon Scheme', running of tourist trains on identified circuits, setting up of Railway infrastructure under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme are some other schemes which have been offered to private sector.

(b) and (c). It is planned to set up a new Division at Agra by adjustments from adjoining Divisions including Jhansi. The new operational limits of these Divisions are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : The Railway Minister has stated in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question that it is planned to set up a new Division at Agra by adjustment for adjoining Divisions including Jhansi. Can this division be not stalled keeping in view the development of the area? Recently, Bilaspur Division was also subjected to such a treatment.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) These Division are set up from time to time keeping in view administrative and functional exigencies. Jhansi Division is, no doubt, the oldest and the most important Division. It is also true that Jhansi Division's performance has been very good but in spite

of it, the Division been reorganised many times to meet the geographical and functional requirements. The present decision has also been taken keeping in view the administrative and functional requirements.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : I would like to remind the hon. Minister that last time when this reorganisation of Jhansi Division was mooted, it had sparked off violent agitation for two months in Bilaspur and Jhansi. The political party to which the hon. Minister belongs and our party were active participants in that agitation. The then Minister had assured that the Bilaspur and Jhansi Divisions will not be bifurcated or reorganised to form a new Division. The hon. Railway Minister, who was the leader of the Janata Dal at that time, had written a letter to the then Railway Minister : I would request the hon. Minister to discuss the issue with the four Members of Parliament from Bundelkhand. The way bifurcation of Bilaspur Division was postponed, can the bifurcation of Jhansi Division also not be postponed? I would request the hon. Minister to consider it favourably.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, Bhopal Division was set up in 1987 and the decision to set up Agra Division was taken in January 1996. The issue was discussed during the consideration of the Supplementary Budget. Now a demand is being made to discuss the issue with the Members of Parliament ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will you postpone it or not? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I cannot make any commitment in this regard.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : I am registering my protest with the hon. Minister on the floor of the House. All the constituted parties of the United Front had participated in the agitation launched to stop bifurcation of the Bilaspur Division. Even the the Prime Minister had given a categorical statement that new Divisions would not be carried out in view of the agitation against such formation. The hon. Minister had also addressed a letter at that time that a new Division should not be setup. If the hon. Minister adopt a stubborn attitude on this issue, it rejects his insensitive attitude towards that area. I hope the hon. Minister would strive to resolve the issue, otherwise the events may take a serious turn there. He should postpone the formation of the Agra Division till the issue is Thrashed Out with the Members of Parliament... (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your point, now let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Your announcement have created situation leading to firing and killing of innocent people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister give his reply.