

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Detailed investigations and final location survey for the rail bridge on the river Ganga at Mungher have been taken up. The requisite clearances can only be processed after the location and costs are finalised which will be after the completion of the survey.

(b) and (c) Will be known after the survey is completed and the work is taken up.

Investment in Railway Sector

774. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment in the Railway Sector has been constantly declining which may be well short for further development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to cover the deficit;

(c) whether the Railways propose the handing over marketing to private sector to improve freight performance and to reduce the costing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The budgetary support from the Central Government has been decreasing over the years and has come down from 75% of the total plan outlay in the Fifth Five Year Plan to 22% in the Eighth Five-year plan. Suitable steps have been taken to maintain investment by taking recourse to Market Borrowing besides Internal Generation. The increased market borrowings have, however, lead on an increase in the lease charges borne by the Railways. This has had an adverse affect on the Internal Resource Generation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quadrupling of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Railway Tracks

775. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the double broad gauge line between Ahmedabad and Mumbai was laid in May 1960 taking into account the traffic at that time;

(b) whether during his visit two months ago he has announced to make it into 4 line in view of the heavy quantum of traffic on this route; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Link Roads

776. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to link every village with approach road; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of villages which have so far been linked with approach road, particularly in Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOURA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Connecting of all categories of villages with approach roads is a State subject and funds for this purpose are provided by the State Governments in their Annual Plan. Moreover Planning Commission provides additional central assistance to State Governments under the Basic Minimum Services including construction of rural roads. The State-wise number of villages with population of 1000 and above which have been connected by link roads upto 1995-96 is given in the attached Statement.