

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since its inception in December, 1986, IRFC has been raising funds from the market to finance acquisition of rolling stock for Indian Railways. Till end of 1997-98, IRFC has raised a total amount of about Rs. 10,590 crore from the market for this purpose.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Financial Commissioner of the Railways has been meeting regularly with the officials of the Finance Ministry. Recently, Chairman Railway Board, Member Traffic and Financial Commissioner had also met Finance Minister. Minister of Railways had also met the Finance Minister recently for increased Budgetary Support to the Railways. Finance Ministry is trying to provide as much budgetary support to the Railways as possible within the broad constraints of the resources for the nation as a whole.

Thalasseri-Mysore Railway Line

406. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Thalasseri-Mysore Railway line; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

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) and (b) A survey for a new line between Tellichery & Mysore has recently been completed, which has revealed that the 298 kms. Line would cost Rs. 860 crores with negative Rate of Return. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of the project and constraint of resources it has not been found possible to take up this project.

Identification of Backward and Poorest Districts

407. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had appointed a Committee in the recent past to evolve criteria for identification of 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether identification of such districts has since been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have evolved any

special action plan for the development of such districts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. E.A.S. Sarma was constituted with the following terms of reference:

(i) To recommend criteria for deciding 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country.

(ii) To identify such districts in various States, as per suggested criteria.

(iii) To suggest an appropriate definition of the term 'infrastructure development' and to identify the specific sectors to be included therein.

(c) to (f) The report of the Committee is under consideration by the Government.

Malhotra Committee Report

408. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the Malhotra Committee Paper/Report to add one more floor to the existing building/dwelling so as to tide over the shortage of living accommodation;

(b) if so, the reasons for not constructing or permitting additional living accommodation in the existing type I, II and III Government accommodation;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction;

(d) the number of temporary structures raised by Government servants in the accommodation allotted to them for their personal use in Delhi in the last three years and the number out of them have been demolished; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government not to demolish any further such structures ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) For each type of residential accommodation there are laid down space norms. For raising additional floors over the existing structure, the technical feasibility has also to be examined.

Allottees of Govt. houses are not expected to raise any structure in the accommodation allotted to them. Whenever any case of unauthorised structure is reported to the Directorate of Estates, action against such allottees is taken under the rules. Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.