

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3196
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
SHIFTING OF COAL YARD
AJIT KUMAR PANJA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to shift the Ultadanga Coal Yard, Kolkata to Tala, Circular Railway Station, Kolkata;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that the proposed site of the new Coal Yard is thickly populated area having the Tala Water Supply Tank, the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in the vicinity and the activities of loading and unloading of coal in that area would pose grave danger to the general health of the public and create environmental problems of that area;
- (d) whether the Government have received representation from the Nagarik Swartha Rakhya Committee, Kolkata against the proposed Coal Yard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (f) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3196 BY SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.08.2003 REGARDING SHIFTING OF COAL YARD

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) : With the saturation of the existing passenger terminals at Howrah and Sealdah, necessity for a third terminal in Kolkata area has become inescapable. The work for construction of new terminal at Chitpur has been included in the Budget of 2003-04 at a cost of Rs.78 Crores. Chitpur has been found suitable in respect of availability of space for construction of a new passenger terminal in Kolkata Metropolitan area. This also has clearance of the State Government. For this, the existing coal yard has to be closed down. The released space of coal yard will be utilized for construction of Chitpur terminal. Since the existing coal yard will be closed, an alternative arrangement for dealing with coal traffic at a nearby place has also been proposed. The locations of existing and proposed site for coal dealing are just opposite to each other. Therefore, the effect of coal loading, at either places will have same impact on the surrounding area.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): The Nagarik Swartha Rakhya Committee has represented against shifting of Ultadanga Coal Yard for new passenger terminal at Chitpur due to pollution, which will result on account of loading/unloading of coal in the adjoining areas of the proposed coal yard.

(f): The representation has been examined. However, it would not be possible to operate the existing Coal Yard at Ultadanga, as without this space, the new passenger terminal can not be developed. The schematic plan of the new terminal at Chitpur has also been accepted by the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority.