

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which the said coach is likely to be attached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[English]

Intercity Express

4012. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Hyderabad-Guntur Intercity Express upto Madras and to introduce Intercity train between Guntur and Madras,

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposals are likely to be implemented, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints

Recovery of Arrears

4013. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Railways seek recovery of arrears", appearing in Statesman dated May 17, 1996,

(b) whether the Cash-and-carry method introduced by the railways to recover outstanding dues has been ineffective, and

(c) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The condition of compulsory prepayment of freight is imposed selectively so as to avoid accumulation of outstanding dues. This condition had not been imposed for DESU and Badarpur Thermal Power Plant of NTPC in view of the importance and necessity to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the National Capital. Hence the outstanding dues had accumulated especially against these two organisations.

(c) It has now been decided to impose the condition of prepayment, in principle, on coal traffic moved to power houses with effect from 1.10.1996 so as to avoid further

accumulation. As regards pending outstanding dues every effort is made to liquidate the same.

[Translation]

Railway Bridges

4014. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of bridges on stations falling between Delhi to Ambala and the norms framed by the Railways to construct the new bridges on the Stations,

(b) whether the goods trains normally remain halted at Rathdhana station due to which the passengers have to face great difficulties and also as a result of this accidents have taken place many a times.

(c) whether the Government propose to construct a bridge at this station,

(d) if so, the time by which, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Between Delhi and Ambala, foot-over-bridges have been provided at 7 stations. The stations having high level platforms are given priority for the provision of foot-over-bridges for connecting the platforms

(b) Goods trains sometimes halt at this station for operational reasons. No train accident has taken place on this account.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work has already been included in the Budget, 1996-97 and likely to be completed by 1997-98 subject to the availability of funds.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Joint Forest Management Scheme of Andhra Pradesh

4015. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Joint Forests Management Scheme of Andhra Pradesh,

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to the Joint Forests Management Scheme of Andhra Pradesh, and

(c) the time by which clearance is likely to be given to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN

NISHAD) : (a) The Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a comprehensive scheme on Joint Forest Management to the office of the Prime Minister on 31.10.1995 with a request to accord clearance and allot the required budget under Employment Generation Schemes of the Government of India. The total financial outlay of Rs. 1965 crores has been proposed for covering an area of 743000 hectare under joint forest management over a period of six years from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Joint Forest Management schemes framed within the guidelines issued by the Government of India on 1st June, 1990 do not require clearance by the Government of India. The State Government has already been advised to implement the scheme for raising of fuelwood, fodder and forest based fruit trees and non-timber forest produce within the available budget resources under various plantation schemes including World Bank aided project.

Rajiv Gandhi Murder Probe

4016 SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the progress made so far in the probe of Rajiv Gandhi murder case; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on the probe?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The material is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Quarrying of Rocks

4017 SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale and unrestricted quarrying of rocks as well as removal of the sand and silt throughout the country including Krishna river side thereby threatening the ecology and environment; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Being minor minerals, quarrying of rocks, ordinary sand and soil are controlled and regulated by State Governments for mineral concession purposes. Further, to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of unrestricted quarrying of rocks, sand and silt by river sides in the Coastal Regulation Zone, a Gazette Notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued on 19th February, 1991 which inter alia regulates such activities in the coastal stretches of seas, bays, estuaries, creeks, rivers and backwaters. Also, wherever quarries and extraction of sand from forest lands are involved, provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines are applicable.

Foreign Visits by Government Officials and Ministers

4018 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have plans to effect economies in expenditure on foreign of the government officials and ministers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Travels abroad are expensive and also cause disruption in work. Instructions have been issued that foreign visits must be kept to the barest minimum. It has also been provided that when Parliament is in session, foreign travels should, as far as possible, be avoided.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion Work on Lucknow-Sitapur-Bareilly Section

4019 SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the reasons for not commencing the gauge conversion work, so far on Lucknow-Sitapur-Melani-Bareilly section meter gauge rail line despite the fact that survey in this regard was made many years back; and

(b) the time expected to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) This is not yet a sanctioned project. Moreover, no survey for conversion of this line was done in the past. However, conversion of this line has been included in the first phase of the Action Plan and is planned to be taken up in the 9th Plan Period.

Construction of New Bridge

4020. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether all old cemented poles are lying useless after the construction of a new bridge for the passage of the rail line on the small river Gandak between Nonapar, Bhatpar and Rani Stations in the Gorakhpur Division;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to hand over such old poles to the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to construct a bridge on the said poles in the public interest for passage thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.