

Title : Regarding need for a phased programme to replace all the railway crossings in the country with overbridges and underpasses.

**(iii) Need for a phased programme to replace all the railway**

**Crossings in the country with overbridges and underpasses**

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Sir, while travelling in a train anywhere in India, it is common to see long queues of all sorts of vehicles, from cycles to trucks, waiting on both sides of railway crossings. This happens because the railway crossings are kept closed for inordinately long periods of time. The situation is worse if these crossings are close to a city, big or small. This causes a lot of inconvenience to the people. A great deal of their precious time is lost in waiting. They are unnecessarily delayed in reaching offices, hospitals, colleges, railway stations, airports, etc. Their patience runs out. When the gates finally open, there is a scramble to cross over, resulting in accidents and injuries.

It is high time that the railway crossings should be done away with. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to inform the House whether the Railways would undertake a phased programme to replace the railway crossings with overbridges and underpasses so that the road traffic can move on smoothly and the people can use their valuable time on things more useful than waiting in interminable traffic snarls.