

(b) the number of completed desalination schemes which are functioning and the number out of them are not functioning;

(c) whether 53 crores estimated Mookaiyoor desalination plant scheme has been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Government of India had sanctioned a desalination plant of 1 million litre per day capacity for Narippaiyur in Ramnathapuram District at a cost of Rs. 10.75 crore on 75 : 25 funding pattern between centre and state. Against this project an amount of Rs. 5,3750 crore was released in 1995-96 and Rs. 1.6875 crore in 1997-98.

(b) The Government of India has sanctioned a scheme for installation of 21 desalination plants to Tamil Nadu. Out of this, 20 plants were installed and commissioned and remaining one plant is yet to be installed. In addition, 6 desalination plants were installed by the State Government and reported to be functioning.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, it has been reported that the State Government decided to enhance the capacity of the desalination plant at Narippaiyur of Ramnathapuram district of Tamil Nadu from 1 million litres per day to 17.1 million litres (appx) per day, the installation works are reported to be progressing well and it is expected to be commissioned by September, 1998.

Development of Road in Tribal Areas

3273. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 100 percent grants-in-aid is given to the States directly for development of roads in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly to the State of Karnataka since the introduction of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of India has no scheme to provide 100% grant-in-aid to the States directly for development of roads in tribal areas.

[Translation]

Condition of Bogies in Chhattisgarh Express

3274. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any letter/memorandum from MPs. in May, 1998 regarding mis-management and poor condition of bogies in Chhattisgarh Express which runs

between Delhi-Bhopal-Nagpur-Rajnandgaon-Durg-Raipur-Bilaspur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan is under consideration to change the filth and squatting pits full of odour from the train; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard and the time by which these bogies are likely to be changed ?

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 complaint was in regard to poor air-conditioning, bad upkeep and lack of cleanliness in Chhattisgarh Express by Shri Motilal Vora, MP, vide letter number nil dated 01.05.1998.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Railways constantly endeavour to provide cleaner and more hygienic travel atmosphere to the passengers. Some of the measures taken to ensure proper upkeep and cleanliness in trains, especially the Chhattisgarh Express are enumerated below :

(i) Thorough cleaning of coaches and treatment of toilets with disinfectants and deodorants during rake maintenance at Bilaspur.

(ii) Use of mobile jet cleaning plants at nominated stations for providing enroute cleaning services.

(iii) Close monitoring of the condition of coaches through officer level inspections and special drives like "Own Your Rake Scheme" etc.

Regarding changing the coaches of this train, it is mentioned that no overaged or overdue periodic overhaul coaches are running on this train and all coaches used are well within their useful economic life.

Survey for Dohrighat-Balrampur Railway line

3275. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey for the construction of rail line between Dohrighat and Balrampur was conducted but the follow-up action still awaits thereon ;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-inclusion of above work in the current Railway Budget; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started and 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) to (c) Surveys were taken up separately from Dohrighat to Sahjanwa in 1977 and 1989 and from Khalilabad to Balrampur in 1979 and they revealed that the lines had poor traffic potential. In view of the grossly unremunerative nature of these lines and constraint of resources, these projects were not sanctioned.

Replacement of Railway Lines

3276. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) length of railway tracks at the time of Independence;
- (b) length of railway tracks added thereafter;
- (c) the length of old railway tracks replaced, State-wise; and
- (d) length of railway tracks yet to be replaced, State-wise ?

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) The data of railway track (route kilometres) is maintained as on 31st March of each year. As such, the route kilometres of Indian Railways as on 31st March, 1948 was 54,693 Kms.

(b) the route kilometres as on 31.3.1997 (latest available) is 62,725 kms. which shows a net addition of 8,032 route kilometres since 31.3.1948.

(c) and (d) The figures of length of old track replaced since Independence is not available. However, during the last ten years, 31,652 Kms. of total track has been renewed. As on 1.4.1997 (latest available) 10,957 Kms. of track was due renewal. The information about track renewal as well as overdue renewals is not compiled State-wise, but Railway-wise.

[English]

Construction of New Railway line between Ghargram and Purulia

3277. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a survey has been conducted with

regard to construction of a new rail line between Ghargram and Purulia in West Bengal; and

- (b) 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) and (b) The Reconnaissance Engg.cum-Traffic Survey for New Line from Jhargram to Purulia (130 kms) has been taken up. The details will be available only after completion of the Survey.

[Translation]

Survey for Satna-Vyohari Railway line

3278. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TIRPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey had been conducted for a rail line between Satna-Vyohari in order to link Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) ;

(b) if so, whether any budget provision had been made during 1996-97, 1997-98 to complete the above rail line;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the work on this section is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to start an additional new rail service to connect Rewa with New Delhi directly; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said new rail service is likely to be started ?

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) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey for Satna-Beohari via Rewa new line was conducted in 1990-91. However, the Planning Commission had cleared Satna-Rewa new line project only, which was completed and commissioned to traffic in 1993.

Besides, a new BG line from Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho whose alignment covers Satna-Rewa, has been included in the Budget, 1997-98. Work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained. Budget outlays of Rs. 0.01 crore and Rs. 1 crore have been provided for the work during 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.