

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct rail line from Lalitpur to Singrauli;

(b) if so, whether the survey of the above line has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work on the above rail line is likely to be undertaken?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) A new rail line from Lalitpur to Singrauli has been included in the Budget, 1997-98. The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

[English]

Ring Railway System in Bangalore

1369. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a long pending demand for the construction of a Ring Railway System in Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No proposal for construction of Ring Railway System in Bangalore has been received from Government of Karnataka.

(b) Does not arise.

Commercialisation of Railway Land

1370. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to utilise the surplus railway land for commercial purposes and improving infrastructural facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified such surplus land and infrastructures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to construct Railway quarters for their employees on encroached surplus land; and

(f) 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) to (d) No, Sir. Railways do not have any surplus land. The land lying vacant with the railways is required for future expansion and developmental works. Railways have, however, proposed commercial utilisation of air-space over railway structures/yards in order to augment its resources. One such project has been identified at Bandra.

(e) to (f) Do not arise.

Projects under CAPART

1371. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of projects taken up under the Central assistance for Council of Advancement of Rural Technology in Karnataka during the last three years; and

(b) details of Progress achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAODA PATIL) : (a) The Council for advancement of Rural Technology (CART) which used to provide central assistance for implementation of projects for advancement of Rural Technology and the People's Action for Development (India) (PADI), were amalgamated in the year 1986 to constitute Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). Under the scheme of Advancement of Rural Technology CAPART has provided assistance for implementation of seven projects in Karnataka during the last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98) for which an amount of Rs.45.5 lakh was sanctioned.

(b) (i) Physical Progress:

Out of seven projects, one project has been completed and the remaining six are at various stages of implementation.

(ii) Financial Progress:

Out of Rs.45.5 lakh sanctioned, an amount of Rs.25.43 lakh has been released.

Reserve of Precious Metal

1372. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether reserves of several precious metals have been discovered in Himalayan region through a survey conducted some years back;

- (b) if so the details thereof, metal-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for the excavation of these metals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the occurrences of precious metals located in Himalayan region by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) are as follows:

Uttar Pradesh : Prospecting between Sarra and Gola rivers, Tanakpur area, Nainital Distt. has shown very low content of gold.

Himachal Pradesh : In Mubarakpur area, Una district, gold value in the sediment of upper Siwalik is very low.

Sikkim : Sulphide mineralisation in the areas namely Pachekhani, Rorathang and Relep contain minor amounts of gold. All the above gold occurrences are of very little economic value.

(c) and (d) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder.

Indian Building Congress Convention

1373. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Annual Convention of Indian Building Congress held at Delhi on 28th April 1998, stressed upon the need for fast development of Villages by public and private participants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Vice President, while developing the concept of ideal village which the Father of the Nation Mahatama Gandhi had propogated, said that villages should be made so attractive, that future cities could be an organic whole of a number of villages which within this whole provide all the modern needs of the people.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, through multipronged development programmes focusing on employment generation, asset creation, provision of drinking water and housing and empowerment of the Panchayats is committed to the upliftment of the Rural areas.

Construction of Rail Line between Jalandhar and Chandigarh

1374. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay new rail line to link Chandigarh direct with Jalandhar and Ludhiana via Nawa Shahar-Samrala-Kharar and Mohali; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

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) There is a proposal for construction of a new line from Ludhiana to Chandigarh. The proposed alignment will pass through Samrala, kharar and Mohali but not through Nawa Shahar.

(b) The work has been included in Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. The action for obtaining the clearances has been initiated and the work would be started once these are obtained.

Employment Schemes in Assam

1375. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of ongoing employment schemes in the urban areas of Assam; and
- (b) the funds provided and the total number of mandays created during each of the last three years; and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana was launched in 1989 to provide employment opportunities to urban poor beneficiaries. This scheme came to an end on 30.11.97.

The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched on 01.12.97. The SJSRY applies to all urban areas and it seeks to provide gainful employment to urban unemployed under employed poor living below the poverty line through encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

(b) The funds released and mandays generated under the wage employment component of NRY during the last three years in Assam are as follows :