

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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) Removal of encroachments on railway land is a continuous process. Action against the unauthorised occupants of railway land is taken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Development of Trivandrum Airport

1305. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to keep in abeyance the developmental activities at Trivandrum International Airport; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The expansion scheme for Trivandrum International Airport envisages interior modification of existing terminal building and extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 8.97 crores and construction of a new terminal complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores.

Gauge Conversion

1306. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Darbhanga-Jaynagar and Darbhanga-Narkatia via Sitamarhi rail lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of above lines are 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work is already included in the budget and is to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. Action for obtaining the same has been initiated. Date of completion can only be fixed once the work receives the requisite clearances and has been started.

Construction of Railway Overbridges

1307. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the construction of two railway bridges across irrigation canals along the Bangalore-Mysore broad gauge railway line:

(b) if so, the progress made and the amount spent so far in construction of these railway bridges; and

(c) the time by which railway bridges are likely to be 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) Yes, Sir. as 'deposit' work of Irrigation Deptt., Govt. of Karnataka.

(b) Work of bridge at Km. 110/3-4 started in March, 1997 but remained stopped due to public agitation demanding level crossing nearby and thereafter due to contractual problem. Now work has been restarted in May, 1998 by another Agency and an amount of Rs. 10,81,711/- has been spent so far. Work of bridge at Km. 40/2-3 will be taken up on completion of Bridge at Km. 110/3-4. However, tender work is under process. No amount has been spent over this work till now.

(c) Bridge at Km. 110-3/4, by April, 1999 & at Km. 40/2-3 by December, 1999.

Construction of Over-Bridge at Railway Crossing

1308. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Railway crossing at Phagwara-Nokodhar Road remains closed for most of the hours daily;

(b) if so, whether there are pressing demands to construct overbridge on this Railway crossing (near JCT Mills, Phagwara) to enable the public to move freely;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the said bridge is likely to be constructed?

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) Provision of a Road Over Bridge can be considered on cost sharing basis provided the State Govt. sponsors a firm proposal duly agreeing to bear their share of cost and agree to close the level crossing for which State Govt. had been requested several times.

(d) Not known in view of above.

Development of APMCs

1309. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for revival of Centrally sponsored scheme for the Development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees in the State;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Dharangdhara Kuda Line

1310. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the feasibility of gauge conversion of Dharangdhara Kuda Line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above work 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is to be executed on cost sharing basis with the Govt. of Gujarat and Ministry of Industry and will be started as soon as the Co-sharers come forth with their share of funds. The Railways have provided their full share of funds in Budget 1998-99.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1311. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steering group has been constituted to look into the poverty alleviation and area development programmes in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the linkage of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) with Training of Rural Youths for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is found not to be satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) A Steering Group on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India was set up by Planning Commission for the Ninth Five Year Plan to suggest various measures to strengthen, improve and streamline the poverty alleviation programmes so that benefits of the programmes reach the rural poor.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to Hashim Committee's recommendations, this Ministry is considering restructuring of all self-employment programmes with a view to improve the linkages between organisation of Groups, training and Credit as well as issues such technology, marketing and infrastructure.

[Translation]

Allocations for Armed Forces

1312. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IAF has urged that more funds be allocated for them in view of the huge funds earmarked for defence by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However, the IAF has urged that more funds should be allocated to it for meeting its various requirements.

(b) It is not considered desirable to give details in this regard in the interest of national security.

[English]

Water Supply and Sewerage Projects for Maharashtra

1313. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent any water supply and sewerage projects to the Union Government for clearance during the last three years;