

Uneconomic Branch Lines

8768. SHRI GIRDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the uneconomic Branch Line Committee had recommended for abolition of certain uneconomic Branch lines;

(b) if so, the names of those railway lines;

(c) whether his Ministry had examined the report and taken a decision thereon; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Uneconomic Branch Lines committee, 1969 recommended that the following lines served no useful purpose and could be closed down;

1. Jorhat- Neamati
2. Lataguri - Famshai.
3. Kunkurav - Derdi.
4. Than - Chotila
5. Hadmatiya - Jodiya
6. Madurai - Bodinayakanur.
7. Walajah Road - Ranipettai.

(c) and (d). Further review was made by the Railway Reforms Committee in 1983 and than- Chotila, Hadmatifya - Jodiya and Kunkuvav- Derdi lines have been closed down. Jorhat- Neamati portion of Mariani- Jorhat- Neamati section has been abandoned due to non-offering of traffic and excessive damage to non-offering of traffic and excessive damage to track.

Allotment of Catering Stalls

8767. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the established norms adopted for allotment of the catering stalls at railways stations;

(b) whether there is any limit of the period of which the licences are given; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Allotment of catering/vending contracts is made by the Zonal Railways after following prescribed procedure. The main terms and conditions are that the persons applying for the licence have sufficient experience, general capability to manage the unit, sound financial standing and character. Smaller contracts of 1/2 units are exclusively reserved for SCs/STs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The normal tenure of these contracts is five years.

Rail Line Between Bhuj and Nalia

8770. SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line between Bhuj and Nalia in Kutch district of Gujarat has been laid;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the track has been tested for running trains on it;

(d) if so, when the trial run was taken on this line; and

(e) when trains will start running on this track?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 35.9 crores.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The trial was conducted on 25.10.89,

(e) A daily mixed train is proposed to be run on this line on experimental basis, after about two months.

[*Translation*]

Rail Link to Buddhist Pilgrim Centres

8771. **SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no direct rail link for ancient Nallanda University, Rajgir Bodhgaya, Gorakhpur, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Lumbini, Varshavash and Shravasti, the places of Budhist pilgrimage;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to accord sanction for a new railway line for Rajgir, Bodhyaga, Sarnath, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Gonda-Shravasti and to double the tracks of Gaya Patna and Gaya Kiul railway lines;

(c) whether Government have received any representations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Nalanda, Rahgir, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Sarnath are linked by rail. The other stations are not linked by rail.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Representations have been received for extension of Baktiarpur-Rajgir line to Bodhgaya, Deoria-Padrauna link, Sahjanwa-Balrampur-Shravasti new lines and for doubling of Patna-Gaya and Gaya-Kiul lines. Due to constraint of resources there is no proposal at present to take up above works.

[*English*]

Rail Link to Agartala

8772. **SHRI K. B. K. DEB BURMAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to accord high priority to bring Agartala, the capital of Tripura, on the rail map of the country; and

(b) if so, the provision made in this regard under the annual plan for 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Final Location Survey for extension of Railway line upto Agartala has been taken up.

(b) An amount of Rs. 18 lakhs has been allotted to this survey during 1990-91.

BG Rail Line Between Manmad and Aurangabad

8773. **SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in laying