

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The train was hijacked in the technical sense. On 9.7.2002, at about 0345 hours, about 100 passengers of 4042 Dn. Mussoorie Express entered the office of the ASM, Mandi Dhanaura and asked him to back the train to Bagarpur to pick up one of their co-passengers who had fallen down from the train. As the train crew resisted their demand, they manhandled and forced them to take the train back. The route was set and the train was taken back at a slow speed. The passenger in question was picked up from Chandpursia. In this connection, 17 persons were arrested and a case *vide* Crime No. NIL/2002 u/s 145, 146, 153, 174 Railways Act, 147, 332, 504, 506, 427 IPC and 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act was registered against them by GRP-Gajraula.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The system was checked at Hapur and found in working condition. Railway employees incharge of the Station have instructions to inform the Police authorities about such incidents.

Kumarghat-Agartala rail line

1144. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of Railway construction from Kumarghat to Agartala would start and be completed.

(b) whether work is running as per the time schedule; and

(c) whether the work would be finished as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The work of Kumarghat-Agartala new line is already in progress. Kumarghat-Manu is targeted for completion during 2002-2003. No target for the whole project has yet been fixed. The line would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.