

[10 March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take for reorganisation of the National Zonal and Divisional Rail Users' Consultative Committees so as to resume the Rail facilities and to benefit the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees and Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees have been reconstituted for a two year term with effect from 1.1. 2000. National Railway Users' Consultative Council is being reconstituted with effect from 1.4.2000.

Rail linking of Barh-Kondi-Ajgara-Barbigha-Shekhpora

1810. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link Barh-Kondi-Ajgara- Barbigha-Shekhpora by rail, in view of the utter absence of any viable mode of transportation in said area;

(b) if so, whether Government would take up this project during the current/next financial year;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, there is a proposal for construction of a new line from Daniawan to Shekhpora *via* Chandi, Bihar Sharief and Barbigha, of which Barbigha to Shekhpora is common with the line requested for. Final decision has not yet been taken.

Laying of Rail Line between Kottur and Harihar

1811. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey has been conducted for laying of new railway line between Kottur and Harihar in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the above project;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that presently iron ore is being exported from Chennai through Bellary, Guntakal, Secunderabad; and

(d) whether to reduce the cost of transportation, Government would take up Kottur-Harihar rail line project on priority, as it is economically viable?

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

(b) The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 120.29 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) the work has already been taken up and will be progressed and completed as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Decreased Transportation by Railways

1812. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether transportation of coal, cement, steel and iron ore by Railways decreased over the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the same; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to negotiate with these sectors and retain and increase transportation of the above sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Figures of loading of coal cement, steel and iron ore for the period April—January of the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:—

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADING

(in Million tonnes)

Commodity	April to January		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Coal	171.36	162.42	170.99
Cement	30.52	29.07	35.26
Steel	9.52	8.78	9.47
Iron Ore	40.68	39.34	40.87