

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(ii) Date of accident—26.11.98 Train No.—
2903 UP Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden
Temple Mail and subsequent side collision
with 3162 DN Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Express.

Location/KM-337/5

Block Section-Khanna-Chawapail Section of Northern Railway

Loss of Life—212

Loss of Property—Rs. 289 lakhs approx

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Strategy paper of the Railway Board

†497. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH

HAMDARD: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has prepared a strategy paper recently, in which it has been stressed not to invest money in non-profitable projects and to reduce the amount of subsidy in the rate of fares and generate money through new sources of income;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated the future policy after giving consideration to this document;

(c) the reasons for not including steps to reduce extravagance in Railways in this document; and

(d) whether Government would take steps in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a "Status Paper on Railways—Some Issues and Options", was laid in the Parliament on May 27, 1998. The Status Paper sought to bring out the various issues facing the Railways and provide answer in the form of a strategy that would propel the Indian Railways on a high growth path.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It has always been the endeavour of the Railways to take all economy and austerity measures to contain the expenditure and effect savings. During the current year, an action plan has also been formulated by the Railways for effecting savings so as to be able to absorb a major portion of post budgetary increases within the existing Budget grants.

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.