

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Outlay during 1998-99 is Rs. 40 crs. and an amount of Rs. 2.05 crores has since been spent on the project.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting of Western Railway Headquarters from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

2119. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift the headquarters of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion of Railway lines in Saurashtra and Kachch region

2120. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been inordinate delays in the conversion of Veraval-Rajkot meter gauge line in Saurashtra region and Bhuj-Gandhidham meter gauge line in Kachch region;

(b) whether they are proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan or in the current year's Railway budget;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any corrective measures have been taken by Government in that direction; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) The works of gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval and Gandhidham-Bhuj are in progress.

There has been some delay due to constraint of resources. However, both the projects are

planned to be completed within the 9th Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources.

Introduction of Super Fast Express Trains

2121. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Super Fast Express trains introduced in 1997-98 in the country, giving names of Railway zones that they traverse;

(b) the rationale and logic of introducing Super Fast Express trains only in some zones;

(c) whether the demands of South-Central Railways and Andhra Pradesh have not been fairly and adequately considered in 1997-98;

(d) by when the Railways propose to meet the requirements of passengers in 1998-99 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Two pairs of Super Fast trains have been introduced during 1997-98; 291 S/2916 Delhi- Ahmadabad Ashram Express serving Northern Railway & Western Railway and 2677/2678 Coimbatore-Bangalore Express over Southern Railway.

(b) Trains having average speed of 55 kmph or more on BG and 45 kmph or more on MG are classified as Super Fast trains irrespective of Zones.

(c) and (d) Railways do not introduce train State-wise. However, 7 pairs of Express trains including a bi-weekly Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express serving South-Central Railway have been introduced during 1997-98.

Introduction of a Fast Train Connecting Calcutta with Towns in North Bengal

2122. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce a fast train connecting Calcutta with the Towns in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMEN-

TARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 3147/3148 Uttar Banga Express (bi-weekly) has been introduced between Sealdah (Calcutta) and New Cooch Bihar (North Bengal) with effect from 22.5.1998.

Rail Line from Udhampur to Jammu and Katra to Quazigund

2123. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the Udhampur-Jammu and Katra-Quazigund rail line will be completed;

(b) the total allocated fund for this project for 1998-99 by Government;

(c) The steps being taken to expedite the work for completing the said work of Jammu-Srinagar rail line.

(d) the present position of railway projects in the Kashmir Valley; and

(e) the targets achieved in this regard so far by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Udhampur - Jammu line is targetted for completion in March 2000. Udhampur-Katra and Qazigund-Baramulla will be completed by March 2002 and Qazigund-Katra by March 2007 subject to the requisite funds being made available by the Planning Commission for which the requirement has been advised to them.

(b) Rs. 120 crs. has been provided in the Budget 1998-99 for these projects.

(c) Top priority is being accorded to these projects and adequate resources have been requested for the same, as mentioned in reply to part (a) of the Question.

(d) Final location survey is in progress for the Railway line in Kashmir Valley. It has already been completed for 5 stations. Land for Srinagar Station has already been acquired and for the balance portion, same is under process.

(e) The work is targetted for completion in 2002 and is being progressed to suit the target, subject to resources being made available as explained in reply to part(a) of the Question.

Tackling of crowd in compartments

2124. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities failed to tackle unauthorised crowd entering Railway compartments in Poorva Express to Howrah from New Delhi on 3rd May, 1998; and

(b) the action proposed against recurring such behaviours in trains passing through Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) In the captioned news-item published in the Hindustan Times of 5.5.98 that the passengers bound for Howrah via Patna by Poorva Express on 3.5.98 could not get their reserved berths as the same were occupied by the unauthorised passengers. However, no such instance of unauthorised occupants has been reported by any one either in terms of written complaint or verbally to Station authorities at New Delhi railway station.

(b) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the ticket checking staff with the help of Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel and the persons found travelling without/with improper tickets are dealt with as per the provisions of the Railway Act.

Shifting of Anand Vihar Railway Station of East Delhi

2125. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to relocate, shift or abandon the Anand Vihar Railway Station of East Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification therefor;

(c) whether the expansion plan of above station has since been shelved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details thereof alongwith work progress, budget allocation, time frame, number of platforms proposed, approach roads