

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The following surveys are in progress for construction of new lines in Punjab:—

- (i) Kapurthala-Beas (23 kms.)
- (ii) Patiala-Jakhal/Narwana via Samana (ISO kms.)
- (iii) Hoshiarpur to Una (33 kms.)

As regards introducing new rail routes in Punjab, construction of a rail bus siding from Beas to Dera Baba Jaimal Singh has been sanctioned on cost sharing basis with the Dera Authorities.

In addition, the following new line works in Punjab are included in the Railway Budget:—

- (a) Chandigarh — Ludbiana
- (b) Abohar — Fazilka
- (c) Taran Taran — Goindwal

These works will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.

There is no metre gauge lines in the State of Punjab. The only N.G. line in the State is the part of the Kangra — Valley Railway near Pathankot. Survey for conversion of this line to BG is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible after the survey report is received.

South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair

2112. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for formation of South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair; and

(b) if so, the details of the resolution of Andhra Pradesh legislature in this regard and measures taken to ensure that Visakhapatnam Railway Division is not merged with new Zonal Headquarter at Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

The Andhra Pradesh Legislature adopted a resolution dated 13.9.96 on the following issues:—

1. For formation of new South East Coast Railway Zone with its headquarters at Waltair.

2. To bring

(a) Duvvada-Palasa (South Eastern Railway)

(b) Vizianagaram-Koneru of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(c) Naupada-Patapatnam of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(d) Kothavalasa-Garapur of A.P. (South Eastern Railway)

(e) a portion of Palasa-Ichapuram of A.P. (S.E. Railway)

Under the control of proposed new South East Coast Railway Zone with headquarters at Waltair or under the control of South Central Railway.

3. Not to transfer Hubli Division from the South Central Railway, Secunderabad to the newly proposed Railway Zone with headquarters at Bangalore.

4. Not to merge Visakhapatnam Railway Division with the proposed new Railway Zone with Bhubaneswar as its headquarters.

In regard to the above, it is stated that taking the various factors into consideration, the Government has decided to set up six new Zones at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The inaugural functions for these Zones have been held. As per RRC recommendations territorial jurisdiction is not to be decided on the ethnic, territorial or linguistic consideration. As regards other issue raised, the territorial jurisdictions of the East Coast Railway and the South Western Railway have not yet been finalised. A final decision will be taken after consultation with concerned authorities.

Black marketing of reserved tickets

2113. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reserved tickets for trains are being sold in black in these days and public has to purchase the ticket from the middlemen by paying hundred rupees extra per ticket;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be

taken by Government to stop this mismanagement;

(c) whether even the information about reservation position of all the trains to various places is also not available; and

(d) if so, whether the Government will introduce any computerised system in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Some instances of blackmarketing of railway passenger tickets by touts and other anti-social elements have come to notice. Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices. Persons detected indulging in the above activities are dealt with under the provisions of the Railway Act, 1989.

(c) and (d) Arrangements for giving information about reservation of berths/seats on the trains exist. These include display of availability position on boards in the reservation offices, giving information manually and in the newspapers. At major stations, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has also been installed for indicating the reservation position telephonically. In addition, charts are displayed at the platforms for the convenience of passengers. The IVRS facility is also to be extended to other major stations gradually.

Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line

2114. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a provision of Rs. 42 crores was made in the railway budget for 1996-97 for the conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line;

(b) whether the former Railway Minister had promised for the completion of this line by the end of 31st December, 1998; and

(c) if so, the progress made in regard to the conversion of this railway line so far?

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

TARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. An outlay of Rs. 11.00 crores was allotted in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, there has been some delay due to constraint of resources.

Earthwork and Bridges are in progress and will be completed by March 1999. The work is now planned to be completed by Dec. 1999 subject to availability of resources.

Double Decker Coaches on the Major Routes of Indian Railways

2115. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered for introducing double-decker coaches on the major routes of Indian Railways to meet the ever increasing passenger traffic;

(b) whether double-decker coaches are not considerably cheaper than laying additional lines; and

(c) if so, whether Government will think of taking advantage of the experience of other advanced countries in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Double decker coaches have been used in limited numbers on some Railways but due to dust nuisance etc., such coaches have not proved popular.

मध्य प्रदेश में मीटर गेज रेल लाइनों का आमान परिवर्तन

2116. श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय :

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में उन मीटर गेज रेल लाइनों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिन्हे बड़ी लाइनों में बदला गया और उन पर कुल कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि नब्बे के दशक के दौरान छोटी रेल लाइन को बड़ी रेल लाइन में बदलने की योजना को व्यापक रूप से क्रियान्वित किया गया था?

रेल मंत्रालय, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक) : (क) एक विवरण संलग्न है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) जी हां। भारतीय रेल ने 1.4.1992 से 7800 किमी मीटर/ छोटी लाइनों को बड़ी लाइनों में परिवर्तित कर दिया है