

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from some private firms for operation of Road Railers and Piggy Back System for carrying of goods both on rail and road. Under these proposals, the parties will own the wagons as well as the terminals. The parties have been asked to furnish the details in this regard.

Linking of Gandhinagar station with Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Delhi

2438. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gandhinagar station is proposed to be linked with Ahmedabad-Mehsana-Delhi line; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Decision to run direct train from Gandhinagar to Delhi will be taken on completion of Delhi-Ahmedabad MG route into BG.

Issue of Complimentary Passes to (be Spouses of Freedom Fighters Samrcan Pension Holders

2439. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced that Free Railway Complimentary Card Pass for self and companion shall be issued to Freedom Fighters Sam-man Pension holders and their widows for life time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such Pass would be issued every year for which freedom fighter would have to go through all formalities; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government consider it necessary to instruct Pass issuing authorities to make such Pass valid till the death of Pass holder thus vindicating the Government of India's decision ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. The pass is granted to a Freedom Fighter or the widow of a Freedom Fighter who is drawing pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme (from Central Revenues), for his/her life time, alongwith one companion.

(b) to (d) In accordance with the scheme of grant of passes, formulated in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs which bears the cost of the passes, the pass is initially issued for a period of one year, to be renewed annually. The procedure of renewal enables deletion, on an annual basis, of the beneficiaries who are no longer alive and also enables maintenance of financial account for debiting the cost of the passes to Ministry of Home Affairs. It is, therefore, not feasible to make the pass valid till death of the pass holder, dispensing with the annual revalidation.'

Doubling of Railway Lines between IYlurad nagar and Saharanpur, U.P.

2440. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration doubling of the railway lines between Murad Nagar and Saharanpur (U.P.);

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

(c) by when the work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey is being ordered. Cost will be known after the survey has been completed.

(c) This depends upon the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Construction of Railway Bridge at Pankha road, Delhi

2441. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the people are facing difficulties due to frequent closing of level crossing at Pankha Road, New Delhi Cantt. Railway Station;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to construct overbridge or underbridge on the above level crossing; and

(c) if so, by when the work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No such inconvenience has been brought to the notice of the Railway.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal. The system of replacing a busy level crossing by a Road over/under bridge is that the State Governments propose the

works giving "priorities. The Railways then, examine the cases and include such of them in the Works' Programme for which the various prerequisite formalities have been completed by the State Governments. The Railways while including the works in the Works Programme also take into account the quantum of existing sanctioned works for that particular State and the pace at which these works are being executed by the State Government.

Grievances of employees of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

2442. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long standing grievances of the employees working in Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

(b) whether Government have taken measures to solve their problems; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from N.F. Railway for grant of Running Allowance at Fireman Gr. 'B' rates to the Brakesmen operating the brakes in Coaches/Wagons on Darjeeling Himalayan Section. Keeping in view the peculiar working conditions of these brakesmen, Board, as a special case, have agreed to this proposal.

Supersession of senior Loco Inspectors

2443. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from some Senior Loco Inspectors, Central Railway, who retired on 31st October, 1994 with last posting at New Delhi, regarding their supersession while in service, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for which they were superseded;

(c) whether they have been given their pension and other retirement dues; if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) by when they will be given their dues and their seniority fixed at proper place?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Goods transportation capacity of Railways

2444. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total goods transportation capacity of the railways;

(b) whether this capacity falls short of the requirement; and

(c) if so, by how much and the steps being taken to augment the goods transportation capacity of the railways to the desired extent ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The goods transportation capacity of the Railways has been developed to deal with a transport output of 273.73 btkm.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion of Railway lines in Gujarat

2445. SHRI RAIUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conversion of Rajkot-Veraval Metre-gauge Railway line into Broad-gauge forms part of the overall gauge conversion plan; if so, what place does it occupy in the plan ;

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has demanded its conversion to be undertaken and completed within the Eighth Five Year Plan period; if so, what is the Government's response thereto; and

(c) what are the other gauge conversion works proposed by Government of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work has been included in the Budget, 1994-95 at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 crores with an outlay of Rs. 3 crores during the current year. However, with a view to finding out the most economical alignment which will also be most useful for serving the Ports and the industry, Railway is studying various alternative alignments. The work will be taken up as soon as the alignment is finalised and necessary sanctions have been obtained.

(c) Government of Gujarat have requested inter-alia for conversion of Ahmedabad—Delhi, Bhavnagar—Surendranagar, Nav-iakhi — Dahinsara — Morbi — Wankaner, Dahinsara — Maliya Miyana, Surendranagar — Rajula and its extension upto Pipavav, Gandhidham — Bbuj — Naliya, Ahmedabad — Viipur, Ahmedabad — Himmatnagar, Miyagam — Dabhoi, Ch-hotaudepur — Pratapnagar, Mahesana — Viramgam, Nadiad — Kapadvanj and extension unto Modasa and Wind Mill to Bedi Port area.