

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways are changing over to colour light and automatic signalling, track circuiting, route relay and panel interlocking systems on a need based programme to coincide with replacements and other system upgradation plans.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) At present provision of electrical interlocking at 95 stations, automatic signalling for 56.06 Kms. and automatic block clearance at 118 stations are in progress on various zones.

(e) In 1993-94, rupees seventy crores have been earmarked for signalling works.

Railway Terminal between Guwahati and Tinsukhia

2496, SHRI VIZOL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway terminal between Guwahati and Tinsukhia was provided about a hundred years ago;

(d) whether Government propose to improvement with regard to passenger amenities has since been made in North-Eastern region except conversion of Railway section between Guwahati to Lumding from metre gauge to broad gauge;

(c) whether this conversion work has not yet been completed even after a lapse of more than two years;

(d) whether Government propose to undertake conversion of other metre gauge sections of North-Eastern Region in to broad gauge connected upto Tinsukhia; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The work of conversion of Guwahati-Lumding has since been completed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Gauge conversion of Chapramukh-Haibargaon and Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked branch lines is in progress. Gauge conversion of Rangiya-Markongselek with branches to Bhalukpong/Tinsukia are included in the Action Plan and would also be taken up in the coming years.

Direct link of Chandigarh with Metropolitan Cities

2497, SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chandigarh is the only Capital city which is not directly linked with any of the metropolitan cities of the country such as Bombay, Madras or Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Chandigarh is already connected by direct trains with New Delhi and Howrah. However, provision of direct trains between Chandigarh and Bombay/Madras is presently not feasible due to operational constraints and lack of resources.

Proposal to link Chandigarh with main line via Rajpura, Punjab

2498, SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link Chandigarh with the main line via Rajpura in Punjab;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey for Rajpura-Chandigarh railway line is in progress and the report is expected shortly.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of new railway lines in Punjab

2499. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no new railway line has been constructed in Punjab since 1947;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey for Constitution of new railway lines in Punjab in the near future; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Survey for Rajpura-Chandigarh railway line is in progress.

Direct link between Amritsar and Simla

2500. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct railway link between Amritsar and Simla;

(b) whether Government are aware that in the absence of such a link, vegetables and fruit growers of Himachal Pradesh are facing difficulty in sending their produce to Punjab and milkmen of Punjab facing difficulty in sending milk to Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to start a rail link direct from Punjab to Simla; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Rail link is available via Ambala.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Simla-Kalka is a NG line. Kalka-Amritsar via Ambala is a BG line. Direct trains cannot be run due to different gauges.

Crossing between Tenali and Repalle in S.C. Railway

2501. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no crossing between Tenali and Repalle stations on the S. C. Rly;

(b) how many trains are running between the above two-stations; and

(c) what are the reasons to demolish the crossing at Vemur station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 6 pairs of passenger trains.

(c) Due to less traffic density.

अवध एक्सप्रेस का दुर्घटनाग्रस्त होना

2502. श्री रामनरेश यादव : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 16 फरवरी, 1994 को रतलाम के समीप अवध एक्सप्रेस की हुई दुर्घटना का ब्यौरा क्या है और उनमें कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई, उनमें पुरुषों और महिलाओं की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी थी तथा दुर्घटना के कारण क्या थे .