

Introduction of Superfast Train Between New Delhi and Kanyakumari

6822. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a Superfast Train between New Delhi/ Nizamuddin and Kanyakumari via Madurai, Erode, Jolarpet, Renigunta, Gudur, Nagpur to cater to the needs to the people of Southern Tamil Nadu who have no direct train link with the capital, in the near future; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what other steps are being proposed by Government to help the Delhi Tamil population from Southern Tamil Nadu to visit their home towns?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) 6017/6018 Himsagar Express already provides direct service between New Delhi and Kanniyakumari. The Passengers travelling between Delhi and Southern Tamil Nadu can avail Changeover facilities at Madras or Erode Jn.

Appointment of Railway Booking Service Agents

6823. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Railway Booking Service Agents were appointed in the Past;

(b) if so, the details of such appointments made in each year zonewise from the date of launching this scheme;

(c) whether some criteria about eligibility and formality have been prescribed while appointing such Agents;

(d) if so, the details thereof with charges fixed and duration of such appointments;

(e) whether some quota of such

appointments has been fixed for blind or for wards of blind people;

(f) if so, the detail thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(g) whether Government propose to privatise the reservation and booking of railway tickets work; and

(h) if so, the details thereof with guidelines to be issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Allocation of Funds for Passenger Amenities

6824. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether customers' satisfaction by increasing amenities to passengers has been one of the thrust areas under the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the thrust in bringing about improvement/increasing amenities to passengers made any headway/ achieved and if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much money was spent on passengers amenities during the year 1993-94 and how much money is proposed to be spent during the year 1994-95; and

(d) the reasons for less outlay of funds towards passengers amenities during 1994-95?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. An Action Plan to remove all deficiencies in respect of the basic passenger amenities at various stations as existing on 1.4.91 has been taken up. Works in this regard are targetted for completion by 31.3.1995. Also, over and above the basic amenities at each station, additional amenities,

wherever warranted by the requirement of traffic arc being/have been provided. In addition, Railways have also been instructed to select stations for extensive attention so as to bring about visible improvements.

(c) and (d) For 1994-95 the allocation under the Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" is Rs 60 crore which is the same as the original Budget allocation for the year 1993-94. However, due to increased pace of work and allied factors, during 1993-94, funds to the tune of Rs 63 crore were provided in the Revised Estimates for 1993-94.

Promotion of Ticket Collectors in Railways

6825. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL Alias MEEN AFFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all ticket collectors have to pass P-6A course before promotion to the grade of Rs. 1600-2660;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in Delhi Division almost all ticket collectors working in grade of Rs. 1600-2660 have not yet passed this course;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of them without qualifying the course were promoted to the grade of Rs. 2000-3200 which is a clear violation of rules;

(d) if so, by which date Railway shall get all these Ticket Collectors qualified in P-6A course; and

(e) what action is going to be taken against the defaulters for violation of Rule if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. On Northern Railway all Ticket Collectors have to pass P-6A course for promotion to grade Rs. 1600-2660.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, sir. Provisional promotion orders have been issued pending passing of P-6A course so as to avoid delay in

giving benefit of restructuring effective from 1.3.1993 to employees.

(d) The staff shall be booked in batches for the qualifying P-6A course at the earliest opportunity.

(e) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion between Samastipur Jayanagar and Darbhanga-Narkatia Ganj

6826. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision taken by the then Railway Minister in 1975 (March '75) regarding conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge between Samastipur-Jayanagar and Darbhanga-Narkatia Ganj and new railway lines from Muzzafarpur to Sitamarhi Via Runnisaipur on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, what are the details of the work done so far in this regard stating the present position of the work; and

(c) what are the present and future plans of Government about the concerned work and the time fixed for the implementation of Government decision in this regard?

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

(b) Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga is in progress.

(c) Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga will be completed in 95-96. There is no proposal for conversion of the other lines listed in this question or for construction of Muzaffarpur-Sitamari new line at present.

रेलवे स्टेशनों के निकट रेल यात्री निवासों/होटलों का निर्माण

6827. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे ने देश में रेलवे स्टेशनों के निकट रेल यात्री निवासों अथवा होटलों के निर्माण के