

Railway Protection Force

316. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to make Railway Protection Force more effective in view of constant increase in the cases of thefts, robbery and murders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Policing being a State subject, maintenance of law and order and control of related crime on railway premises including running trains is the responsibility of the State Governments which they discharge through their respective Government Railway Police. As regards the Railway Protection Force which is intended for the security and protection of railway property, various measures are being taken from time to time to modernise the force and to make it more efficient by equipping it with modern equipments, vehicles, arms and ammunition and training aids.

Laying Double Rail Line between Chengalpattu and Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu

317. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will be Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for laying double rail line between Chengalpattu and Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial allocations therefor and by when the work is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Section forms part of Madras—Tiruchchirappally (via Chord)—Dindigul conversion project to be taken up in 1992-93.

Guwahati Dadar Express

318. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present frequency of the Guwahati-Dadar Express is not adequate for the increasing commuting public; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of the train to cope up with the increasing need of the Cancer patients of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) It, by and large, caters satisfactorily to the existing level of traffic.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Road-cum-rail bridge at Jogighopa over river Brahmaputra in Assam

319. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in completion of the road cum rail bridge at Jogighopa over Brahmaputra in Assam;

(b) the extent of cost escalation as a result thereof; and

(c) by when the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The work on the road-cum-rail bridge at Jogighopa over Brahmaputra in Assam is progressing as per schedule.

(c) The work is targetted to be completed by 1994-95.

Memorandum from all India Loco Running Staff Association, New Delhi

320. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(i) Whether a memorandum dated 31st March, 1992 has been received from All

India Loco Running Staff Association, New Delhi on reinstatement of dismissed Loco Running staff and other railway workers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) and (c) The memorandum demands reinstatement of dismissed loco running staff and for implementation of various judgments of the Central Administrative Tribunals in that regard. 294 staff have already been reinstated as a result of Court orders. 349 staff remain dismissed/removed. Government have decided not to reinstate them. However, court cases filed by some of the 349 staff involve important questions of law and these cases are pending in Supreme Court.

Converting Metre Gauge into Broad Gauge Tracks Throughout the Country

321. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to have only broad gauge tracks throughout the country by converting metre gauge tracks in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the present total length of metre gauge tracks in the country;

(c) the allocations made to convert the metre gauge tracks into broad gauge tracks; and

(d) by when the conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) 23,419 kms.

(c) Rs. 559.54 crores in 1992-93.

93-L/J(D)26RSS—5 (a)

(d) It will depend on availability of resources in coming years. It is, however, proposed to convert 6000 kms. MG line into BG during the 8th Plan period.

Privatisation in Railways

322. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Railways may privatise all services except freight; passenger traffic" what appeared in 'the Economic Times', New Delhi dated the 13th April, 1992;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which this would improve Railways' operational and financial structure over the present one particularly the transfer of the various manufacturing units to the private sector ?

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

(b) and (c) For the present it has been decided to privatise only the catering services on Indian Railways in phases.

A task force is also going into the question of 'own your wagon scheme' by major railway users.

Action Plan for development of Railway System

323. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn up an action plan for the development of the Railway system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds proposed to be allocated for the same for the 8th Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Every