

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up railway coach factory in some States;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether there is a long pending demand to set up coach factory in the coastal areas especially in Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government, so far?

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

(b) It is proposed to set up Rail Coach Factories at Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and Palakkad in Karala.

(i) Rail coach factory at Rae Bareilly has already been sanctioned in the year 2006-07 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1685 crores. The work for its setting up is under execution.

(ii) Detailed Project Report for setting up rail coach factory at Palakkad in Kerala is under examination of Ministry of Railways where after approval of Planning Commission, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs shall be sought before it is put up for Parliamentary approval.

(c) Demand for setting up coach manufacturing facilities in different parts of Andhra Pradesh have been received from time to time.

(d) Coach manufacturing facilities are set up keeping in view the Railway's overall requirement of coaching stock. It is mentioned that coach manufacturing facilities existing on Indian Railways/Public/Private Sector and those already planned on Indian Railways are sufficient to meet the requirement of coaches. As such, there is no proposal under consideration for setting up another railway coach factory in the coastal areas, especially in Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Extension of rail line to Garo hills

136. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the railway line connection to Garo hills from Goalpara to meet the long standing demands of the people of the State of Meghalaya and to improve trade and commerce of the region as well;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a survey for new line from Jogighopa to Silchar has been taken up.