

(Gitanjali Express) while passing outer signal of Rourkela station and run over resulting the right leg and right hand of the boy were cut. He was immediately shifted to hospital by Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) staff for necessary treatment. Grandfather of the victim boy lodged a complaint to GRP/ Rourkela that the boy was pushed out from the train by on duty Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) in the train. GRP/ Rourkela has registered a case *vide* crime No.76/08 dated 2-7-2008 U/S 307, 137, 138, 141PC & 179 the Railways Act on 4-7-2008 against the said TTE and arrested him.

Captive power plant at Nabinagar

909. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways spends around Rs.8,000 crore annually on purchasing diesel and would have to fish out Rs.560 crore this year alone after the price hike whereas it spends about Rs.4,066 crore on running electric trains;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry plans to generate its own energy by setting up 1,000 MW captive power plant at Nabinagar in Bihar; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated cost of plant, time required for its completion and likely annual savings to Railways for running electric trains as compared to diesel, along-with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The total fuel bill for traction purpose has been budgeted at Rs.13, 618 crore in budget estimate 2008-09 consisting of Rs.8,521 crore for diesel and Rs.5,097 crore for electric traction. The price of diesel increased by Rs.3/- per litre from 04.06.08 in the current year, the impact whereof has been assessed at Rs.610 crore for the current financial year *w.e.f.* 04.06.08

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have formed a new company namely "Bhartiya Rail Bijlie Corporation Limited" in joint venture with NTPC for the said purpose. This plant will be of 1000 MW capacity and will be set up in Nabinagar, District Aurangabad in Bihar. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 5352.50 crore with mega status. The debt to equity ratio of the project will be 70:30. The equity participation will be 74% (Rs. 1186.26 crore) by NTPC and 26% (Rs. 417.5 crore) by Railways. The plant will be operational by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan *i.e.* by March, 2012. It is estimated that this will be saved Rs. 400 to Rs. 600 crore per annum of electricity bill of Railways.

Booking of general tickets on mobile SMS

†910. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has started the facility of booking of reservation (general) tickets on mobile SMS;

(b) if so, the time since when; and

(c) if not, the details of the scheme, Railways are formulating in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various options are being explored, before any conclusion is reached.

Labourers working under contractors in railways

911. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers working under contractors in different sectors of Railways;

(b) whether these contractors have labour licences; and

(c) whether these labourers get minimum wages and covered under social security schemes of Ministry of Labour, viz. P.F., Gratuity, E.S.I., etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Tender Conditions and General Conditions of contract stipulate that a contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 / Rules 1971 as amended from time to time. The contract labour are paid the minimum wages as per notifications issued by the Central / State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and are also covered under social security schemes of Ministry of Labour as per extant Acts.

Construction of new rail lines in Gujarat

912. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 for construction of 10 new railway lines spread over various sectors of the State and also providing required funds for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per available records, no such proposal has been received from State Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail line

913. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI NATUJIHALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: