

[4 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

as *yet no* decision to set up an autonomous Indian Railway Power Corporation as a canalising agency for procurement of power.

(c) and (d) Matter will be examined after a pre-feasibility study has been carried out.

Fitness of Pedapalli-Karimnagar Rail track

1516. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts find the new Peddapalli-Karimnagar track unfit for passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether soil quality was tested before carrying out the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

A.C. Accommodation in Gautami Express

1517. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal *to* increase the AC accommodation on Gautami Express in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is need for more accommodation;

(c) what are the reasons for not adding additional coaches to Gautami Express; and

(d) the steps proposed to enhance accommodation in such trains in Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present Gautami Express is running with maximum permissible load of 22 coaches leaving no room for attaching any extra coach.

(d) Proposals are on hand to augment Gautami Express to 24

coaches after the existing pit line at Kakinada is extended, for which work is in progress.

Upgradation of Nizamuddin Express

1518. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Railways' long term plans with regard to Nizamuddin Express between Waltair and Nizamuddin;

(b) whether Railways are aware that this is an important train for the passengers of Coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Railways would upgrade this only direct train linking Delhi and Coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether it is a fact that this train is usually delayed every day;

(e) whether this train would be upgraded to make it more attractive and comfortable for people; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There is no long term plant to change the character of 8561/8562 Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Express.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following 2 more pairs of trains provide direct connection between Visakhapatnam and Nizamuddin and the services do cater to the needs adequately.

1. 8543/8544 Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Samata Express (Triweekly) via Nagpur-Raipur-Vizianagaram.

2. 2803/2804 Nizamuddin-Visakhapatnam Swarnajayanti Express (Bi-weekly) via Vijayawada (This is a Superfast Train).

(d) No, Sir. The punctuality of 8561/8562 Express is generally satisfactory.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

(f) Does not arise.