

[15 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	214.04	173.00	25.00	Work Completed.
5.	Naupada-Gunupur	78.11	35.79	34.00	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
6.	Dharamavaram-Pakala	294.99	7.28	11.51	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up on Pakala-Madanapalli section.

The allocation of gauge conversion projects has increased during 2006-07 due to revival of 'Capital Fund'. No additional funds have been provided for the above projects during 2006-07. The ongoing projects are likely to be completed during XIth Plan period.

Pensionary benefits to catering cleaners

2691. SHRI PR. RAJAN:

SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority granted benefits of counting their engagement periods as well as for pensionary benefits to the catering cleaners engaged through contractors of Tiruchirapalli division after the Hon'ble Supreme Court W.P No. 171/86 dated 4th February, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether above benefits were made applicable to employees of identical situation at Thiruvananthapuram division; Southern Railway, Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f). whether the steps would be taken to grant the above benefits to employees of Thiruvananthapuram Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) As per the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. (c) No. 191/86 dt. 04.02.1987, not the W.P. No. 171/86 as mentioned in the question, the erstwhile contract cleaners were engaged as casual

laborers on Southern Railway with effect from 01.04.1987. On completion of 4 months' service, they were granted temporary status with effect from 01.08.1987. Under the decasualization scheme, 284 catering cleaners were empanelled for regular absorption in 1997. The catering cleaners so empanelled are treated as regular railway employees with effect from the date of their empanelment and their regular service will be counted for pensionary benefits. This has been made applicable to all catering cleaners of Southern Railway including those belonging to Trivandrum Division.

Connecting Bedi Port and Porbandar

2692. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURYAKANT ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide freight corridor from Mumbai to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the new developments considered for Gujarat;

(c) whether Porbandar and Bedi Ports broad gauge missing linkage is considered;

(d) if so, the status thereof;

(e) whether Government have received proposal for providing missing link connecting Bedi Port and Porbandar Port from the Government of Gujarat/GMB;

(f) if so, whether Government are considering the same; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Western corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2006-07. The corridor will start from Jawaharlal Nehru Port and will be routed *via* Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Palanpur and Rewari to Tuglakabad and Dadri.

(b) Project will involve construction of more than 500 route kilometer of New Line in the State.