

dissemination and entertainment system in trains through open tender.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Doesn't arise.

Rail coach factory at Palakkad

820. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present status of railway coach factory construction at Palakkad;
- (b) what is the provision for this project for this year;
- (c) how long it would take to start production; and
- (d) how many people are employed presently to start the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In the Budget speech of 2008-09, Hon'ble MR announced the setting up of a new Rail Coach Factory at Palghat Kerala to take care of the increasing requirement of Passenger coaches in the country. Government of Kerala has promised to make 1000 acres of land available, free of cost, for this project. Railway Board commissioned RITES for finalizing the Detailed project Report (DPR). Land earmarked by the State Government has already been inspected by RITES officials. A DPR, bringing out the product mix, investments required and other related details were submitted by M/s. RITES. It has been scrutinized in the Ministry of Railways and requisite approval are being taken.

The abstract cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 1215.76 crores.

- (b) No budget provision is required at this stage.
- (c) and (d) It is not feasible to furnish these details at this stage.

Coach manufacturing units in Uttar Pradesh

821. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has plan to construct a coach manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including investment cost, capacity of the plant and tentative completion date of the project;
- (c) whether Railways is proposing to coach manufacturing unit of M/s. Jessop in West Bengal which would involve comparatively much less investment *vis-a-vis* a green field coach factory in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?