

Surplus land of Railways near Sankrail in Howrah

2594. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to utilize surplus railway lands for mobilizing additional financial resources;
- (b) if so, whether Government has surplus land near Sankrail in Howrah;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and since when it has remained idle;
- (d) the details of original price paid as compensation to owners;
- (e) whether Government will consider reverting back this land to State Government for setting up industries;
- (f) if so, the future plans thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) whether the land may be reverted back to original former owners or to their descendents; if so, the plans thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Duranto Trains

2595. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Duranto non-stop express trains have started from Delhi to Sealdah and Chennai;
- (b) if so, the other Duranto non-stop express trains which are going to be commissioned;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Hyderabad Duranto non-stop express train was to start from October, 2009; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for not commissioning the same?

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

(b) The Duronto Express trains, as announced in Railway Budget 2009-10, will be introduced in the financial year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relief to passengers of local trains in Mumbai

†2596. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the steps which are being taken by Government to give relief to passengers in local trains in Mumbai;

(b) whether Government proposes to constitute any committee consisting of Members of Parliament which would consider to provide better facilities to the passengers in local trains; and

(c) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) To give relief to the passengers in local trains in Mumbai area, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) services have been increased by 18.43% in Central Railway and 20.15% in Western Railway since 2004 onwards. Besides state-of-the-art Electric Multiple Unit (EMUs) with 3 phase (IGBT) Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor propulsion system and air suspension arrangement are being introduced in Mumbai area with following additional features for providing better facilities to the passengers.

- i) Forced air ventilation system.
- ii) GPS based Passenger information system.
- iii) Aesthetically designed quality passengers seats.
- iv) Higher acceleration and deceleration.
- v) Improved lift of windows with fixed Poly Carbonate Louver with tinted glass.
- vi) Soothing interior and exterior colour schemes.
- vii) Better illumination.
- viii) Regenerative braking.- resulting in reduced noise level & energy saving.
- ix) Running of ladies only EMU trains to specified timings.
- x) Augmentation by extra coaches in existing services.
- xi) Running additional local trains.

(b) and (c) At present there is no such proposal.

Silchar-Lumding broad gauge expansion project

2597. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Silchar-Lumding broad gauge expansion project;
- (b) the price escalation due to delays; and
- (c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) On Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam, Badarpur-Kumarghat gauge conversion project, earthwork, major and