

(b) 155/156 Tinsukia Mail will be extended to Gauhati from the date of opening. There is no proposal to extend Assam Mail to Gauhati by all BG route. It will continue to run via Barauni BG cum MG route.

Supply of Drinking Water on Railways

241. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the quality of drinking water supplied by Railways for about ten million passengers everyday is generally very poor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sample testing done in 1981-82 showed that as many as 29.6 per cent of the samples were not fit for drinking; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Sir, the Railway Reforms Committee in its XV Report has pointed out that 29.6 per cent of the samples tested in 1981-82 were found to be unpotable and have recommended remedial action to be taken.

The unsatisfactory result of some of the water samples tested would be mainly due to inadequate chlorination or lack of disinfection at specific sources of supplies etc. In such cases immediate remedial action such as enhancing the dose of chlorine or bleaching powder or disinfection of storage tanks is taken and the water samples are rechecked for determining its potability. The Railway Reforms Committee's recommendations are under active consideration.

Rail Link to Giridih and Hazaribagh

242. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to connect the

two industrial district centres namely Giridih and Hazaribagh by Railways;

(b) if so, by when the project is likely to be launched; and

(c) what is the estimated cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Preliminary Engineering-cum-traffic survey for a new BG line from Ranchi-Barkakana to Hazaribagh and onwards to Giridih via Koderma is in progress. A decision on the project will be taken after the survey is completed, and the report examined, subject to availability of funds and clearance by the Planning Commission.

(c) Cost of the project will be known after the survey is completed, and report received.

Regular supplies of stocks to fair price shops

243. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of ration shops and fair price shops in Delhi are devoid of stocks; and

(b) what steps have been taken to maintain regular supplies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to maintain regular supply of ration at the fair price shops, Delhi Administration have taken a number of steps including availability of all commodities to the consumers on the same