

The State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have also undertaken various steps to make the cultivation of sugarcane remunerative to farmers. For example, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has increased the State Advised Price (SAP) and the State Government of Maharashtra has launched an ambitious Pilot Programme in 2009-10, which aims at enhancing sugarcane productivity through joint efforts of State Agriculture Department, Sugarcane factories, State Agricultural Universities and Research Institutes.

Setting up of a coach factory at Kanjikode in Kerala

***137 SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good part of land required for setting up a coach factory at Kanjikode in Palakkad district of Kerala has already been acquired and the balance has been promised by the State Government to be made available according to the schedule fixed by Railway authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the formal clearance will be accorded for setting up the coach factory and the ground work be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Government of Kerala has stated that, out of 430 acres required for the coach factory, 235.55 acre is already available with District Collector, Palakkad and balance land will be made available according to the schedule fixed by Railways.

Planning Commission has accorded 'in principle' approval. Further action for approval of the project is being expedited.

Safety in trains

***138. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of enhanced terror threat to travellers and increasing crimes on trains, Railways have worked out a seven-point action plan to ensure safe and secure travel for passengers;

(b) if so, whether high level meeting of State Home Secretaries, officials from Ministry of Home Affairs and her Ministry has decided to strengthen security in naxal-affected areas;

(c) whether to effectively curb increasing cases of crimes, Inter-State police teams will be formed for a group of trains running through the States; and

(d) if so, the other measures taken in this regard and to what extent these measures have helped in ensuring safety in trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Safety and security are our priority area. Railway is much concerned about crime in Railways. The Railway system being the softest target is the most vulnerable to sabotage and other destructive activities by the anti-social elements.

'Policing' being a State subject, registration cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police.

However, to provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The duties of RPF have been modified to protect and safeguard Railway property, passenger area and passengers by amending RPF Act 1957. The Railway Protection Force staffs are being deployed to escort about 1275 important trains daily on an average in affected sections in addition to escorting of about 2200 trains by Government Railway Police daily.

Regular coordination meetings are held by Railways with Government Railway Police and State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crimes.

Railways are coordinating with State Governments to provide better security to passengers and property regularly. A coordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.01.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi to improve security of travelling passengers in railways. The problems of extremist activities in certain states, attack on Railway property in course of political and local agitations, property related offences, incidents of drugging and difficulties encountered in registration of cases were the issues which were discussed besides other issues. During the meeting, a 7 point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The resolution includes holding of regular coordination meetings, sharing of intelligence, tackling investigation of crimes on railways etc., which has been sent to State Governments for implementation. The concerned State Governments have also been requested to take effective steps to strengthen security on railways in naxal affected areas.

(c) and (d) During the meeting it has been suggested to form inter-state police teams by State Governments so that the gangs of criminals operating in railways can be arrested. The suggestions made during the meeting are to be implemented by the State Governments. The usefulness of the systems as suggested can be assessed after the implementation by the State Governments.

Continuous depletion of iron-ore resources

*139. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the cumulative export of iron-ore from our country since last three years;