

(8) Survey for a parallel BG line from Hazipur to Bachwara.

(9) Survey for conversion of Darbhanga-Sakri-Jayanagar MG line into BG.

(10) Survey for a new line from Dauram-Madhepura to Singheshwar.

(11) Survey for a new line from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi.

(12) Survey for conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga Narrow Gauge line into Broad Gauge and its extension to Tori.

Replacement of Railway Police set-up

386. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been persistent demand for scrapping of the present Railway Police set up and replace it by a Railway Safety and Security Organisation; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to concede this demand and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Under the Constitution Railway Police is a State subject and the States have to manage it. The States cannot be divested of their Constitutional responsibility. The States, however, were finding their Government Railway Police force to be inadequate. On their request, therefore, the Railway Ministry have agreed to an increase of an additional staff of 6018 men in various States.

Trains between Bombay and Pune

387. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of express and passenger trains running between Bombay and Pune and also the number of local trains run by Central Railway and Western Railway in Bombay and suburban areas and their seating capacity;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to population rise the present availability of seats is totally inadequate creating travel hazards; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to introduce more trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 12 Mail/Express and 3 Passenger trains each way are run between Bombay and Pune. 863 suburban trains are run in the Bombay suburban area by Central Railway and 715 by Western Railway. The capacity of each EMU train is about 1800.

(b) Yes, the peak rush hour demand is not met fully.

(c) Proposals for introducing additional suburban services have been formulated but their implementation will depend on availability of resources and production of DC electric multiple units. Introduction of additional train services between Bombay and Pune is not operationally feasible for want of spare line capacity, terminal facilities and coaches.