

ON, implying that loco pilot of Jnaneshwari Express was intending to warn the crew of train coming from opposite direction. Apprehending danger, the crew of the goods train applied emergency brakes. Before the goods train could come to a halt, it collided with the derailed coaches of Jnaneshwari Express, as there was very little time and distance left and both the incidents occurred in a short span of time

(d) Does not arise.

### **Consolidated Budget**

\*252. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of having a Consolidated Budget (including Railways), as the conditions existing in 1924 when separate Budget for Railways was introduced, are no longer relevant, as at that point of time, Railways' expenditure was 70 per cent of the total Government expenditure;

(b) if so, the present percentage of Railway expenditure as compared to total funds allocated for meeting all liabilities of Central Government; and

(c) whether in the present scenario there is any difference between Railways as a crucial infrastructure as compared to Civil Aviation, Shipping, Road Transport, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The railway has a vast network covering the length and breadth of the entire country, connecting remote areas, meeting the transportation needs of the common man at the cheapest fares. Railways shoulder social service obligations which is unparalleled compared to any other transportation mode. It is the bulk transporter of goods, with certain essential goods being carried below the cost of transportation in the public interest. In times of national crisis such as famine, floods, war etc., Railways facilitate the movement of men and material, often at no cost. It has a unique identity touching each and every citizen of the country without any discrimination and therefore cannot be compared with any other mode of transportation.

### **Slow pace of sugar production**

†\*253. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar mills, particularly in Maharashtra, have kept a slow pace of sugar production despite commencement of sugarcane crushing season;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether slow pace of production by sugar mills would decrease the production of sugar in the country and would consequently affect interests of both the sugarcane producers and the common consumer; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The unseasonal rains in the month of October and November, 2010 have delayed and in some cases, also slowed down sugarcane crushing operations by the sugar mills in some areas of sugarcane producing States including Maharashtra during current crushing season 2010-11 (October-September).

(c) and (d) The initial slow pace of production by sugar mills in some States is unlikely to decrease production of sugar in the current sugar season 2010-11 as a whole, as the mills are likely to make it up in the course of time. As such, the question of affecting the interest of sugarcane producers and the common consumers on this count adversely, does not arise.

#### **Laying of new rail lines on PPP mode**

\*254. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that guidelines have been formulated for taking up projects relating to laying of new rail lines on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assessment, if made, about the implications of allowing private parties and about revenue that Government is going to earn through this route?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) A new policy named R3i (Railways' Infrastructure for Industry Initiative) has been notified to facilitate participation by strategic investors in rail connectivity projects including new line projects.

(c) The purpose of the policy is to facilitate private investments for railway infrastructure projects and generate revenue for the railways.

#### **Marketing Assistance Scheme of NSIC**

\*255. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) is implementing Marketing Assistance Scheme (MAS) to promote marketing efforts and enhance competency of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to capture new markets;