

dollars to meet the foreign exchange cost of the airborne surveys and a loan agreement has been signed. In accordance with the terms of the agreement, survey will be conducted by a U.S. Engineering Firm who will be responsible both for aerial surveys and the follow up ground work and diamond drilling. The loan carries an interest of 1 per cent for the first 10 years and 2½ per cent thereafter, and is repayable within a period of 40 years in 61 approximately equal instalments, the first instalment being payable 10 years after the first drawal against the loan.

Proposal of airborne survey received from USSR is under discussion with the Soviet authorities. Proposals for similar surveys received from East German and French Agencies are also under consideration.

SPEED OF TRAINS

622. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to increase the speed of a number of trains in the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) There is a proposal progressively to increase the present maximum permissible speed of 96|100 Km.p.h. (60 m.p.h.) on the main line sections of the Broad Gauge only, subject to the availability of requisite funds and foreign exchange. To start with, the maximum permissible speed of the Taj Express running between New Delhi and Agra has been raised to 105 Km.p.h. (65 m.p.h.) The speed of the Frontier Mail between Bombay Central and Delhi, and the Kalka Mail between Mughalsarai and Delhi, is also proposed to be increased to 105 Km.p.h. (65 m.p.h.) progressively and works in this connection are in progress.

However, even within the present maximum permissible speed of 60 m.p.h., every endeavour is made to speed up trains to the extent feasible, at each revision of the time table, by adjusting their timings and change of traction. In the time table which came into force from 2-10-1966, consequent on their dieselisation, journey time by Frontier Mail has been reduced by 45 minutes from Bombay to Delhi and 40 minutes from Delhi to Bombay and that of 5 UP/6 Dn Howrah-Amritsar Mails by 2 hours 20 minutes from Howrah to Amritsar and 1 hour 40 minutes in the reverse direction. 89UP/90 Dn Howrah-Madras Expresses have been speeded up by 4 hours from Howrah to Madras and 2 hours 35 minutes in the reverse direction. Tatanagar-Waltair Expresses and Puri-Hyderabad Expresses have also been accelerated by 35 minutes to 1 hour 20 minutes.

In addition to these important trains, about 110 other passenger trains have also been accelerated by 15 minutes and above.

CONSUMER INDUSTRIES IN THE FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

623. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to enter the field of consumer industries in a big way during the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) to (c) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House.