

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry about sub-standard material being used for the manufacturing of different type of coaches including high technology coaches like LHB coaches of different types; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) There is no deadlock between the Rail Coach Factory management and the employees.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Rail Coach Factory is an ISO-9001 certified Organisation with full-fledged Quality Control Department. Most of the materials are inspected by the external agency *i.e.* M/s Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) which ensures that only materials conforming to prescribed quality specifications are passed. Since there are established procedures for ensuring quality control of procured materials, no inquiry has been considered necessary.

#### **Rail link with Burma**

2544. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken any proposal to set up a rail link with Burma, crossing through the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it would be completed;

(d) whether Government have studied border security situation between north-east and Burma; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Ministry of External Affairs had commissioned Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES Ltd.) to carry out a feasibility study for India-Myanmar Rail Link. This study

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has been completed. The feasibility study suggested the following alignments:

*In India:*

(i) Construction of new rail link between Jiribam-Imphal-Moreh at a cost of Rs. 2941.08 crore.

*In Myanmar:*

(ii) Construction of a new rail link between Tamu (Moreh)- Kalay-Segyi at a cost of Rs. 1339.02 crore and rehabilitation of existing line from Segyi-Chaungu Myohaung at a cost of Rs. 283.959 crore.

(c) No decision has been taken with regard to setting up rail link with Burma. However, a new line from Jiribam- Imphal Road (Tupul) has been taken up to provide connectivity to Imphal and the same is targeted for completion by March 2010.

(d) and (e) The security situation in the border areas is under constant review.

### **Forest cover along railway lines**

2545. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast tracts of land along the railway lines have been notified as protected forests, but are lying neglected;

(b) if so, what is the Government's policy to maximize forest-tree-cover over this area;

(c) whether the State Government of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have requested that the State Forest Departments may be allowed to plant trees in these open areas along the railway lines and to manage the plantation in these areas without payment of revenues, in the interest of FTC and ecology; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some of the railway land along side railway track has been declared by forest Department as