

(Ordinary) fares have been increased by about six percent per annum. Outlay on passenger amenities has been increased in the current year. It is expected that improvement in quality of service will generate high growth of passenger traffic as well as earnings.

Railways are very much alive to the necessity to provide potable water to the passengers. The water supply received from the local Municipalities/Water supply authorities are supplied as it is. Water drawn from Railway's own sources like open well/bore well etc. is stored and chlorinated before it is supplied on platforms and in coaches. The samples of water thus supplied are periodically tested and certified by the Medical Department of the Railways. Thus, Railways take adequate care to ensure supply of potable water to passengers.

As regards security of the passengers, Railway Police Station/Railway Police Out-Post, is available at all important Railway Stations.

A.C. train on Kothavalasa-Kirandul line in Andhra Pradesh

750. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run a train with A.C. coaches, fitted with fibre glasses on the Kothavalasa-Kirandul metre gauge line in Andhra Pradesh to tap tourist potential for view of the Eastern Ghats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.