

### **Concessions to handicapped people**

2777. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are not offering concessions to handicapped persons in various trains like Shatabdi and Rajdhani etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons for denying concessional benefits to physically/mentally handicapped persons in all passenger trains; and

(c) whether Railways are considering any proposal to extend concessional benefits to physically/mentally handicapped for travelling in Shatabdi/Rajdhani also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Orthopaedically handicapped/Paraplegic persons who cannot travel without an escort, completely blind persons and Mentally retarded persons who cannot travel without an escort are eligible for 25% concession in 3-AC and AC Chair Car of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains respectively. Same element of concession is also admissible to one escort accompanying each such person.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### **Railway projects in Orissa**

2778. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when Government would consider the sanction of the three missing links, namely Rupsa-Burhamara to Chakulia (35 kms.) Nuapada-Gunupur B.G. rail link to Theruvali (79 kms.) and Banspani-Barbil rail link?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): Extension of Rupsa-Bangriposi line from Burhamara to Chakulia (50 km.) is a sanctioned project.

Updating Survey for Gunupur-Theruvali has been taken up. Reconnaissance Engineering cum Traffic Survey for new railway line between Banspani and Barbil has been taken up. Further decision on the projects would be taken after scrutiny of survey reports.

### **Overloading of parcel coaches**

†2779. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the parcel coaches of passenger trains have been given on contract by Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.