

#### **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.

(c) whether Government is aware that contractors are overloading these parcel coaches as a result of which there is a looming danger in the operation of trains;

(d) the number of complaints received, zone-wise, regarding overloading in parcel coaches and action taken thereon; and

(e) the action taken to check such negligence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to maximize the utilization of the parcel space of Brakevans of passenger carrying trains and thereby increase earnings, Railways had launched a scheme during the year 2006 for leasing of parcel space in the Assistant Guard's Cabin (AGCs), Brakevans (SLRs), as also in Parcel Vans attached to passenger carrying trains.

(b) Parcel space of 437 Assistant Guard's Cabins (AGCs), 1424 luggage compartments of Brakevans (SLRs) and 176 Parcel Vans have been leased out over Indian Railways.

(c) Yes, Sir. A few cases have been reported.

(d) In the recent past, 12 complaints from East Coast Railway, and one each from Northern Railway, North Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway have been received. Complaints were investigated and punitive charges recovered from the party as per extant rules by the concerned zonal railway.

(e) With a view to prevent overloading under the scheme, regular as well as surprise checks are being conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments of Zonal Railway and action/punitive charges are recovered by the Railway as per laid down provisions.

#### **New technology at RDSO**

2780. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have set up modern and versatile engineering software and computer workstations at the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) Directorate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether training to handle the new technology for the officials of RDSO has been undertaken;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which officials would be able to handle the new technology smoothly; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred in setting up of new technology at RDSO?