

[8th December, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet this persistent/growing demand for additional rail accommodation;

(c) whether it is proposed to add some more coaches to the existing train as an interim measure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the time-frame fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARIMAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extra coaches are attached on day to day basis depending upon the availability of coaches and special trains are run to clear extra rush during peak rush periods.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to convert the train No.9707/9708 Bandra Terminus-Jaipur Express to twenty four coaches rake and will be implemented on completion of necessary operational formalities.

Declaration of Kondakamberu as Wildlife Sanctuary

*295. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to refer answer to Unstarred Question 1427 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has since finalized the proposal for declaring Kondakamberu as Wildlife Sanctuary;

(b) if so, by when the notification would be issued; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The powers to notify any area as National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary within the State vests with the concerned State Government, under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act. The State Government of Orissa has informed that the State Wildlife Advisory Board had made recommendations regarding Kondakamberu being notified as a Sanctuary. The proposal was, however, not accepted by the State Government because the area encompasses 176 villages with a population of 17,206. Most of them are tribals, who had already been displaced due to Muchhkund and Balimela reservoir.