

[8th December, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) One pair of trains is presently connecting Azamgarh with Delhi. Besides, Azamgarh is also connected to Lucknow and Ahmedabad. Introduction of additional train services, directly connecting Azamgarh with metropolitan cities, is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

#### **Closing of East Coast Railway Zonal Office**

2195. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA. will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that East Coast Railway Zonal Office, which was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Devegowda, has been finally declared closed by the Ministry of Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b): NO, Sir. However, the entire issue of reorganisation of Zones / Divisions is under review in the light of the resource crunch presently faced by the Railways.

Q.No. 2196. [Cancelled]

#### **Closing Down of Seven New Railway Zones**

2197. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven new Railway zones announced by the then Railway Minister, are going to be closed, since these are not economically viable; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b): No, Sir. However, the entire issue of reorganisation of Zones / Divisions is under review in the light of the resource crunch presently faced by the Railways.