

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) A survey for construction of Dindigul-Sabarimala new line had been completed in 1997. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 201 km. long line had been assessed as Rs. 750 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing project, un-remunerative nature of the proposal and constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to consider this proposal.

(c) and (d) Normally, proposals for fresh investment are considered as financially justified, if it can be shown that the net gain, expected to be realized from a project, yields a return not less than 14% under Discounted Cash Flow method. The net financial gain, expected to accrue from a project, may be either by way of savings in expenditure or increase in the net earnings (*i.e.* gross earnings less working expenses), or a combination of both.

A.C. coaches in Mangla Express

2209. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.C. coaches in Mangla Express and Krishna Express are not cleaned on the way and remain without water;

(b) whether inspite of complaints in mid-June Mangla Express remained without water and toilets strewn with faeces; and

(c) if so, the action proposed against those responsible for the lapse and creating lot of trouble to public while travelling even in A.C. coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) All coaches of long distance trains including the AC coaches of Mangla Express and Krishna Express are carefully cleaned and watered at their base depot during primary maintenance before commencement of outward journey and at the secondary maintenance deopt at the other end before commencement of return journey. Also, arrangements have been made for watering and cleaning of toilets of these trains at nominated stations enroute which are:—

I. For Mangla Express (Ernakulum-Nizamuddin)

(i) Kankanadi on Southern Railway.

- (ii) Chiplun & Madgaon on Konkan Railway (only watering).
- (iii) Igatpuri and Bhusawal on Central Railway.
- (iv) Itarsi on West Central Railway (only watering).
- (v) Jhansi to Agra on North Central Railway (one traveling safaiwala is provided).

II. For Krishna Express (Tirupati-Hyderabad)
Cleaning and watering is done at Vijayawada.

(b) One complaint regarding leakage of water in a coach in Mangla Express has been received during June 03. Defect has been rectified.

(c) Does not arise.

Improving efficiency of Railways

†2210. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail administration is considering to retire the employees after a certain age to improve the efficiency in railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is considering to grant some relief to retiring employees; and

(d) if so, the details of the relief being considered to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, a safety-related retirement scheme for two categories only has been announced.

(b) to (c) The details are under formulation.

Railway Time-table

†2211. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for publication of Railway Time-table; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.