

[1 March, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

and the grani is likely to be utilised fully during this period. The work has already commenced from January, 2002.

Computerised rail reservation counters in Rajasthan

280. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number and details of railway stations in Rajasthan where computerised reservation counters are likely to be set up by the end of the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): As on January 31, computerised reservation facilities have been provided at 29 locations in Rajasthan. These facilities are likely to be provided at Sirohi Road, Rani, Marwar and Dholpur by March 31, 2002. Proposal for the computerised reservation facilities at Suratgarh, Sardarshahar, Merta Road, Marwar Bhinmal, Nokha, Sujangarh, Makrana, Nagaur, Jawai Bandh and Beawar has been included in the Annual Railway Budget 2002-03.

Freight targets of the Railways

281. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have achieved the target of freight tonnage in the first three quarters (April to December) of the 2001-2002 financial year;

(b) if so, what was the target for the same and what was the achievement; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to achieve the target in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No., Sir. Total revenue earning originating freight traffic for period April, 2001—December, 2001 was 357.26 million tonnes against the proportionate target of 367.75 million tonnes.

(c) Railways could not meet the proportionate freight target due to less demand from the consumers. Railways have taken the following steps to achieve the target.

- (i) Volume discount scheme extended for the year 2001-02.
- (ii) Conditions for grant of "Station to Station" rates have been liberalized in favour of users.
- (iii) A scheme of reduced lump-sum rate for traffic moving on Merry-go-round (MGR) system has been introduced to attract traffic of short lead.
- (iv) Special emphasis has been given to monitor loading of high profit yielding commodities.

Railway proposals from Kerala

282. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Ministry from the Kerala Government and Members of Parliament for construction of new rail lines, gauge conversion, doubling of rail lines and electrification, during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by Government thereon;

(c) the details of the ongoing projects, the funds allocated and the expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) by when these projects would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Some of the proposals received from Government, of Kerala and MPs for construction of new lines, gauge conversion, doubling and electrification during the last 3 years and action taken thereon are as under: