

[24 November, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

**Train Service between Jammu and Haridwar**

618. SHRI MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long-pending demand of the people of J and K for starting train service between Jammu and Haridwar was under consideration in the Ministry;

(b) whether there are any cogent reasons for the delay in such an important link between Jammu and Haridwar, absence of which is a great inconvenience to the people of J and K; and

(c) whether there is any likelihood of starting such train service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Introduction of a train between Jammu and Haridwar is not feasible at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

**Fuel Management Policy of Railways**

619. SHRI V. P DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to set up a Committee to prioritise its fuel management policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that different reports have favoured use of diesel or electricity for running trains; and

(d) whether the Ministry have come to a definite conclusion on use of diesel or electricity by now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There have been a number of Committees set up by the Railways in the past to determine the breakeven point of traffic density above which electrification is considered financially viable taking into account the relative economics of diesel and electric traction. As per the present practice, projects for electrification are evaluated on a case to case basis and only projects with a financial rate of return of more than 14\*% are normally taken up for electrification.

(d) No, Sir. Relative economics of diesel and electric tractions depends upon a number of factors such as electricity tariff, diesel price, traffic density of the section, traffic mix between passenger and freight services etc.