

and constant efforts are being made to achieve the targets for the remaining items in accordance with the Official Language Policy of the Government which is based on persuasion and incentives.

Fake Railway Passes

955. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a racket is running systematically in Maharashtra and issuing fake railway passes for the last so many years;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, only three cases of use of fake railway passes had come to notice of railways in past many years and as outsiders were involved the cases were referred to the Police. In one case, investigation has been completed and charge sheet filed in the Court of Law. Investigations are in progress in the other two cases by the Police.

Regular preventive checks are conducted to detect such cases.

[English]

E.D. Employees

956. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of E D Employees in the Post-Offices in Delhi Circle.

(b) whether recruitment of such employees is made through employment exchange.

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) the number of E D employees appointed without their names being forwarded by the Employment Exchange;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some Assistant Superintendents have committed irregularities in such appointments.

(f) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of ED Employees in Delhi Circle is 549.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. However, incase the Employment Exchange fails to sponsor the requisite minimum number of candidates within the date stipulated in the notification, applications are invited through open advertisement.

(d) The number of ED Agents appointed without sponsorship by the Employment Exchange in Delhi Circle is 3. Two were appointed from the local market as per rules and one was appointed before the condition of sponsorship from the Employment Exchange was introduced.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (h). The question does not arise.

Environmental Damages Caused by Eco-Tourism

957. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growing Eco-Tourism in the country is causing environmental damages.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have proposals to monitor the over-growing eco-tourism being promoted by the various State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) and (b). Although there has been a few instances of environmental degradation in the past, the concept of eco-tourism is aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability of tourist centres by following eco-friendly practices and creating awareness.

(c) and (d). The Central Government has constituted the Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board (HIMTAB) which has evolved guidelines for developing eco-tourism.

Railway Freight Charges evaded by Gang Operating in Delhi

958. SHRI G M KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a gang is operating in and around Delhi and evading freight apart from sales tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that such evaders have been detected by the railway and sales tax authorities recently;

(d) if so, the amounts recovered from them and number of persons arrested so far involved in this modus operandi; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No information of any gang operating in and around Delhi are evading freight apart from Sales Tax has come to the notice of the Railway.

(c) and (d). During surprise checks on unbooked luggage, conducted in association with the Sales Tax Authorities of Delhi, U.P. and Haryana States during the period July to October, 1996. Railway dues amounting to Rs. 55.56 lakhs were realised and 660 packages weighing about 370 Qtls. were confiscated by the Zonal Railway. Sales Tax Authorities have withheld certain packages of consignment and also stopped delivery of 15 wagons for realisation of their dues from the Traders.

(e) Railways have intensified checks against carriage of unbooked luggage in trains.

Change of Location of HPT in Gujarat

959. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2473 on August 1, 1996 regarding expansion of TV transmitters in Gujarat and state :

(a) whether a request from the State Government of Gujarat regarding change of location of HPT, Dwarka is pending with the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A new site for locating the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Dwarka in Gujarat has since been taken over. The project is expected to be completed in about 8 years time, after approval by the competent authority, subject to availability of funds infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities

[Translation]

Mass Rail Facilities in Jabalpur

960. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nagrik Manch, Jabalpur has submitted a demand letter for mass rail facilities;

(b) if so, the details of the demands;

(c) whether the Government have rejected their demands;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Introduction of a superfast train between Jabalpur and Delhi to cover the distance between Jabalpur and Delhi within 12 hrs.

(2) Attachment of A.C. first class in Nizamuddin-Jabalpur/Nagpur/Bilaspur Gondwana Express between Jabalpur and Hazrat Nizamuddin.

(c) to (e). Both the demands have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Rail Link with North-Eastern States

961. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities of the north eastern States connected with rail;

(b) the number of cities proposed to be connected with rail in future;

(c) whether there is any proposal to connect Jaipur with rail directly with the north-eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Twelve important cities of the North Eastern States which are connected by rail are :

Guwahati, Naugaon, Jorhat, Tinsukhia, Dibrugarh, Tejpur, Mariani, Lumding Rangia, Silchar Town and Moranhat.

(b) A rail link to Agartala has been taken up Goalpara and Depa would also get connected by rail once the Jogighopa-Guwahati line gets completed in 1998-99.

(c) There is no such proposal at present

(d) Does not arise

[English]

Re-Employment in Public Sector Units

962. DR. ASIM BALA :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :
SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had issued directions to its