

Encouragement to use of Official Language

5751. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drives, for implementing the use of the official language of the Union (Hindi) at various levels of Rail Administrations, Zonal Railways and other units of the Railways, is continuing or has shown some slackness on the part of officers and men at various levels since the taking over of the rail administration by the present Minister;

(b) what progress has been made by the Zonal Railways, particularly such of these as have their fields of operation in areas mostly Hindi speaking; and

(c) in view of the fact that Railways are the commercial undertakings having day to day dealings with people, whether there is going to be intensification of the programme in the Zonal Railways and their divisions etc. where people know or accept Hindi as medium for transactions and business?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) There has been no slackness on the part of officers and men at various levels in the use of Hindi since the taking over of the Railway Administration by the present Railway Minister. Greater emphasis is being given to ensure that the various directives regarding use of Official Language are fully implemented.

(b) and (c). There has been a steady progress in the use of Official Language in Railway Offices located in Hindi-Speaking areas. On North Eastern Railway, target for use of Hindi to the extent of 100 per cent has been fixed. In the Hindi-speaking divisions of Western Railway, which switched over to Hindi in the Year 1976, the progress is continuing steadily. Similar progress

is being maintained by the Central and Northern Railways. The other Hindi speaking divisions such as Katihar division of N.F. Railway, Danapur and Dhanbad divisions of Eastern Railway and Bilaspur division of South Eastern Railway are also making steady progress in the use of Hindi.

Railways have instructions that Pass, P.T.O.'s, Excess Fare Tickets, Blank Paper Tickets should be issued in Hindi for stations located in Hindi speaking areas. Similarly Railway Receipts can be filled by Railway staff in Devanagri script (Hindi) when both the booking and the destination stations are situated in Hindi speaking areas and the sender has executed the forwarding notes in Hindi. Thus, every exert is being made to intensify the programme for the use of Hindi in Railway Offices located in Hindi Speaking areas where people know or accept Hindi as medium for transactions and business.

Amraoti and Khamgaon on Nagpur-Bombay Trunk Route

5752. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of bringing Amraoti and Khamgaon (Central Railway) on Nagpur Bombay trunk route was considered by the Railway Board;

(b) if so, full facts of the case; and

(c) action taken/proposed to examine the feasibility of projects separately for Amraoti and Khamgaon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c): The proposal for bringing Khamgaon on the main line was considered in the year 1946/1947 on the request of the then Govt. of Central Provinces and public representations. The proposal was not considered justified and no traffic survey has been carried out for the diversion since then.