

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1107
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023**

SHUTDOWN OF PRINTING PRESSES

1107. SHRI VENKATESH NETHA BORLAKUNTA:

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY:

SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has decided to go ahead with its decision to close down its five printing presses across the network including one at Secunderabad, Telangana and outsource the printing of tickets until complete digitalization of the ticketing system is achieved, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the trade unions were against the said move which was once deferred after stiff opposition by these trade unions, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the staff of the presses would be redeployed and machinery, plants, etc. disposed of in the zones concerned, if so, the facts in this regard; and

(d) whether the land of these presses is likely to be gainfully utilized, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a): Yes, Sir. Due to digitization and diminishing requirement of printing, these printing presses became unviable, hence, Ministry of Railways decided on 04.06.2019 to close the five printing presses located at Mumbai, Howrah, Delhi, Chennai and Secunderabad by March 2020. Later on closure of these printing presses was deferred temporarily upto

31.03.2023 considering progress of digitization, requirement of physical tickets/money value items and Covid-19 pandemic. Decision for closure of these printing presses finally was communicated to all Zonal Railways on 03.05.2023. Broad guidelines for implementation of closure of the presses include outsourcing of printing of tickets to trade till complete digitization of ticketing systems.

(b): Requests for continuation of printing presses were received from trade unions. Closure of printing presses was deferred in past, considering progress of digitization, requirement of physical tickets/money value items and Covid-19 pandemic.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. Broad guidelines for implementation of closure of the presses issued vide letter dated 03.05.2023, include re-deployment of released staff suitably, disposal of all Machines, plants, etc. available in these presses and gainful utilization of the land released by the concerned Zonal Railway.
