

Over-crowding of Suburban Trains in Bombay

3818. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the total suburban trains in and around Greater Bombay have been overcrowded and overloaded all the time;

(b) if so, steps being taken to relieve such pressure;

(c) whether Government have prepared any alternative scheme for underground circular railway for the city of Bombay, and if so, broad details thereof; and

(d) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). Consistent with the availability of requisite resources by way of line/terminal facilities and EMU coaches, suburban trains are introduced. During 1977-78 so far, a total of 64 Suburban trains (14 on the Central Railway and 50 on the Western Railway) have been introduced and the runs of 29 Suburban trains (11 on the Central and 18 on the Western Railways) have been extended to provide relief to the commuters.

(c) and (d). No scheme for an underground circular railway has been prepared as an underground railway is very expensive.

Free Carriage by Railways

3819. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways carried some articles free from different destinations to places in Andhra Pradesh for supplying relief and goods to the victims of the recent cyclonic havoc there;

(b) if so, broad details thereof;

(c) whether some tractors from Gujarat were transported by the Railway wagons for the said purpose and if so, whether they were sent promptly and efficiently;

(d) if not, why not; and

(e) whether any action was taken against such of the Railway employees who caused delays in this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). Yes. This concession is admissible for relief materials intended for free distribution amongst the victims in the cyclone-affected areas when booked from any station in India and consigned to the specified authorities on production of a certificate from the consignors that the consignment is a gift or has been purchased with funds donated by the public for relief work and has not been paid for by the Central or State Government or some agency of it. This concession is valid upto 30th June, 1978.

(c) to (e). 5 tractors loaded in a Parcel van ex-Ahmedabad to Vijayawada was overcarried to Bombay Central causing some delay in transit. Responsibility is being fixed and appropriate action will be taken against the staff at fault.

Imposter arrested in Pune

3820. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an alleged imposter who travelled in trains with a bogus VIP pass during the past few years was arrested in Pune recently;

(b) if so, full facts thereof;