

Late running of Utkal/Kalinga Express

584. SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days during April—June, 1979 the Utkal/Kalinga Express has reached Nizamuddin Station more than two hours late;

(b) whether Government have found out the reasons for such delay; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to run the train in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). During April, May & June/79, 77 Up Utkal Express reached Nizamuddin more than two hours late on 3, 4 and 5 days respectively and 143 Up Kalinga Express reached Nizamuddin more than two hours late on 2, 1 and 4 days respectively.

The reasons for such late arrivals have been analysed. The primary reasons which affected the punctuality of these trains were heavy rain and bad weather as well as loco loss/failures, signal failures and alarm chain pulling. For detentions caused due to reasons within the control of the Railways, a close watch is being maintained at all levels and remedial action is being taken promptly.

Class IV and Clerks covered under essential services in C.G.H.S.

585. SHRI MAHI LAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Class IV employees and Clerks are covered under 'Essential Services' in the C.G.H.S.; and

(b) if not, the reasons for calling Class IV employees on emergency duty in the C.G.H.S. Dispensaries when Clerks working in the dispensaries are not called on emergency duty?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. All Class IV employees excluding peons are considered part of 'Essential Services'. Clerks are not considered as part of 'Essential Services'.

(b) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of ex-bonded labour

586. SHRI SHIV NARAIN SARSONIA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Ex-bonded labour who have been rehabilitated so far and the mode of the rehabilitation extended to them and whether the rehabilitation scheme is attractive and advantageous to the ex-bonded labour; and

(b) how many Harijan ex-dacoits have been rehabilitated.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) According to the information received from the State Governments upto 31-12-78, the total number of ex-bonded labourers rehabilitated was 54,993.

Rehabilitation assistance provided by State Governments to freed bonded labourers included allotment of agricultural lands, house sites, loans/grants for purchase of milch animals, sheep, poultry, implements for agricultural purposes, carpentry, etc., employment under ongoing programmes for soil conservation, irrigation works and other welfare programmes. Monthly financial assistance was also provided in some States.

The Centrally-sponsored Scheme launched during 1978-79 to speed up the rehabilitation programmes was attractive enough, the total quantum of assistance being of the order of Rs. 4000/- per released bonded labourer. Assistance has been given to State Governments to cover 5,906 more freed bonded labourers during 1978-79 under this Scheme.

(b) No information is available as to Harijan ex-dacoits amongst the rehabilitated bonded labourers. Considering the nature of their activities, it is unlikely that there would have been any ex-dacoits amongst bonded labourers.

Shortage of Bitumen

587. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the shortage of bitumen, the road repair work on National Highways is held up; and