

During the current financial year so far, only 3 States, viz. Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal, have been in overdraft for more than 7 days. The overdraft in the case of Maharashtra and Rajasthan has been cleared and only West Bengal continues to be in overdraft. Its overdraft on the 25th January, 1980 amounted to Rs. 13.00 crores.

2. The Government of West Bengal was assisted by the Central Government by releasing in advance the instalments of share in Central taxes and Central assistance for State Plan and a ways and means advance and its overdraft was cleared on 24th December, 1979. However, the overdraft re-emerged on the 26th December, 1979 and has been continuing since then. In the case of West Bengal, the main reason for the prolonged overdraft is stated to be the imbalance in its finances on account of the grant of dearness allowance by the State Government to its employees and non-recovery of State Government's dues from the agriculturists on account of drought.

3. A scheme for regulation of States' overdrafts was drawn up in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, and the Planning Commission and was enforced with effect from the 1st October, 1978. This scheme does not permit any State Government to be continuously in overdraft for more than 7 working days. Since the enforcement of the scheme, most of the State Governments have been able to manage their finances within the parameters of this scheme.

4. A meeting was held with the Government of West Bengal at official level on 25th January, 1980 to discuss the ways and means of liquidating the overdraft. The State Government was urged to re-order priorities, improve the collection of Govt. dues and contain the expenditure within the available resources so as to eliminate recourse to overdraft on the Reserve Bank of India.

Railway carriage repair Workshops

133. SHRI PENCHALAI AH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Railway Carriage Repair Workshops during this year;

(b) if so, how many; and

(c) the present position regarding proposal to set up one at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) to (c). A Scheme for setting up a New Carriage Repair Workshop to meet the requirements of Eastern Region is being set up at Mancheswar (Bhubaneswar) on the South-Eastern Railway. The Project Report & the Estimates for setting up the workshop was approved in May/June, 1978 and the construction work is in progress.

A Scheme for setting up another New Carriage Repair Workshop at Tirupati on the South-Central Railway to meet the requirement of Southern Region has also been approved and included in the Railway's Works Programme for 1979-80. The Project Report & Estimates for setting up this workshop are presently under preparation by the South-Central Railway.

राजस्थान में बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर स्थानों के लिए गाड़ियों की रात्रि सेवायें

134. श्री विधी चन्द्र जैन: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राजस्थान राज्य के बाड़मेर और जैसलमेर स्थानों के लिये गाड़ियों की रात्रि सेवायें कब से बंद की गई हैं और उनके न चलाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

(ख) क्या इस सन्दर्भ में अधिक पिछड़े हुए तथा देश के सीमांत क्षेत्र के लोगों को इसके कारण असुविधा उठानी पड़ रही है; और