

(b) if so, what are the details of late running from April, 1979 to December, 1979 and also during the months of January and February, 1980;

(c) what are the reasons for not attaining punctuality in respect of this train;

(d) whether Government propose to take action against railway officials who are responsible for the late running of this train and, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there are no proper catering, drinking water and other basic facilities on the route of Jhelum Express to and from Pune and Jammu and passengers are facing untold hardships on this route; and

(f) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(a) and (b). 177 Dn Jhelum Express from Pune to Jammu Tawi ran late on 156 days out of 183 days from April to September, 1979. It was however, late on 50 days out of 92 days during October, 1979 to December, 1979 and 16 days only out of 60 days in January and February, 1980.

(c) and (d). The punctuality performance during the period April to September, 1979 was affected mainly due to the extremely tight schedule given to this train. After gaining the experience of the running of this train, running of this train was re-scheduled on realistic basis w.e.f. 1st October 1979. The punctuality has further improved during January and February, 1980.

(e) and (f). Adequate drinking water arrangements exist at all stations where Jhelum Express stop. Drinking water facility is also provided in the Second Class sleeper and first class coaches in the Summer months.

Suitable and timely halts have been provided to Jhelum Express at stations with adequate catering arrangements for service of meals, breakfast and tea.

Dry Dock at Paradip

390. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Paradip Port Trust has sent its recommendation to the Union Government in June, 1979 for the construction of a Dry Dock at Paradip; and

(b) if so, what action Government has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) A suggestion for construction of a commercial dry dock at Paradip has been received.

(b) A comprehensive study to consider requirements of ship repair facilities in the country and the best possible locations is being commissioned. A decision on the suggestion of Paradip Port Trust will be taken on receipt of the report.

Second General Cargo Berth at Paradip

391. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up second General Cargo Berth at Paradip; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the construction is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). A second general cargo berth at Paradip Port has been sanctioned. The contract for the construction of the berth has been awarded and the work is in progress.