

(a) and (b). No. However, on 144—1980, there was a theft of two bags rice valued at Rs. 450/- from a wagon on goods train No. DC-289 Dn. between Banahi and Bihia Railway Stations.

Late Running of Jhelum Express

508. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jhelum Express running between Pune and Jammu Tawi is always running late; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) The punctuality performance of 177/178 Jhelum Express; of late; has not been upto mark. The reasons for unsatisfactory performance was mainly due to Alarm Chin Pulling, Loco defecting/failures, derailments, late arrival connecting rake and severe summer conditions, etc.

(b) Running of 177/178 Jhelum Express is being monitored on day-to-day basis and all efforts are being made to improve punctuality performance and the avoidable cases of detention are being suitably taken up.

Bus Service between Madras Hotel and Paschimpuri, Delhi

509. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the only route No. 910 between Madras Hotel and Paschimpuri is irregular and the passengers have to wait for 2½ hours for the bus at noon and when a bus comes, the passengers waiting at intermediary stops are not in a position to board the bus due to its being already overcrowded;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to improve the service;

(c) the number of complaints made by the passengers for the irregular service on this route; and

(d) what action has so far been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) The service on Route No. 910 between Madras Hotel and Paschimpuri has the frequency of 26 minutes in peak hours and 52 minutes in non-peak hours. In the event of any break-down in non-peak hours irregularity in service sometime may occur.

(b) With a view to improve the service the following steps have been taken:—

(i) One special trip has been introduced from Madras Hotel to Paschimpuri from 9th June, 1980 at 2.40 P.M. to reduce the waiting time and over-crowding;

(ii) Supervisory staff at the terminals has been instructed to provide substitute bus in case break-down of the scheduled service;

(iii) Efforts are being made to deploy comparatively new buses with better service reliability on this route.

(c) and (d). Two complaints regarding irregularity of service on this route were received during the last six months and the action taken is indicated against (b) above.

Bus Route No. 910

510. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether route No. 910 is from Paschimpuri-Panjabi Bagh-General Store-Raja Garden-Moti Nagar-Central Secretariat to Madras Hotel;