

**Withdrawal of DTC Buses provided
for Schools in Delhi**

6353. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any 'social burden' on the Delhi Transport Corporation to provide buses for schools in the Capital even at the cost of inconvenience caused to the daily commuters;

(b) if so, what and to what extent;

(c) the average earnings from these buses during the schooling period month-wise;

(d) whether due to this diversion of buses in the capital, the daily commuters are hard hit; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to withdraw these services and utilise the fleet for the benefit of daily commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Average earning per month is Rs. 4.88 lakhs.

(d) No, Sir, as buses are provided during lean traffic period.

(e) Does not arise.

Leprosy Patients in the Country

6354. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Tenculmari leprosy hospital in leprosy prone area of Dhanbad (Bihar) decaying for want of financial help; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI
NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and
(b). The institution was taken over from the Dhanbad Mines Board of Health by the Government of Bihar and is run by them. The Government of India has not received any request from the Government of Bihar for financial help for this Hospital.

Works undertaken in District Thana

6355. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay included in the Budget of 1979-80 on the schemes of works undertaken in the district of Thana (Maharashtra) as new works and works in progress on Central and Western Railways;

(b) the actual expenditure incurred up to 31st March, 1980;

(c) whether the outlay has been completely utilised during the financial year to physical target achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof and authorities responsible for the same; and

(e) how much more money will have to be spent because of delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MALLIKARJUN): (a) An outlay of Rs. 545 lakhs by Central Railway and 47 lakhs by Western Railway has been included in the Budget for 1979-80 for new works and works-in-progress in the district of Thana (Maharashtra).

(b) An amount of Rs. 650 lakhs has been incurred by Central Railway and Rs. 96 lakhs by Western Railway upto 31-3-80.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

Private Catering Contractors on Railways

6356. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of private catering contractors are operating on Railways for continuously over 20 years;

(b) if so, the number of such contractors and the places where they are operating (stations); and

(c) the reasons prevailed upon Government for continuing these contracts over 20 years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The basic and primary aim of the Railways is to provide satisfactory catering service to the passengers. This is why the rules provide that when the performance of a contractor is satisfactory, on the completion of a tenure, his contract should be renewed for a fresh term. Unless the contractor is assured of stability and continuity of his contract, he cannot be expected to make the required investments in his business and take active interest in providing satisfactory service to the passengers. This is why a number of good contractors have association with the Railways for over 20 years. It is also not desirable to render such contractors jobless when their performance is to the satisfaction of Railway Administration. Further, catering is a specialised

work and parties with long experience, render better quality of service.

Safety measures for human life and property lost by Railway accidents

6357. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research Designs and Standards Organisation, Lucknow is doing any work on ensuring safety of human life and property lost by Railway accidents; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the R.D.S.O. has not so far been able to invent any design and equipment which can effectively prevent derailments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Derailments are caused by a variety of factors acting either independently of each other or collectively. Efforts are made by R.D.S.O. and all other Organisations connected with improvement of railway working to minimise the incidence of accidents, including derailments, but to the best of knowledge no equipment has been developed anywhere in the World which can effectively prevent derailments.

Loss of human life and property during Railway accidents

6358. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway accidents and damages by them are in the decrease or increase during the last three years; and

(b) what are the total losses of human lives and property during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The