

'signing on' and off' excluding certain period and by this the Board has increased the net working hours of running staff; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to rescind such orders of unilateral imposition of adverse conditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION & SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) In the context of operational requirements of the Railways and keeping in view other relevant factors a directive was issued by the Railway Board to the Railway Administrations on 3-4-81 regarding 10-hour rule as applicable to running staff for the purpose of claiming relief. These instructions have however, no applicability in respect of payment of overtime for which total duty is taken into account from the time of 'signing-on' to the time of 'Signing-off'. Instructions were also issued to the Railways advising them to reintroduce crew control system of booking running staff on 'first-in, first-out' principle in such a manner as to ensure optimal and equitable utilisation of such staff, in particular their proper booking, grant of periodic rest and avoidance of excessive overtime working.

No change is contemplated in these directives.

Double Line for Burdwan-Bandel Section

3035. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for another line between Burdwan and Bandel to ease the traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION & SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Burdwan-Bandel is already a double line section and there is no proposal for laying another line between these places.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Dieselisation of Chetak Express

3036. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Chetak Express takes much longer time than any other trains covering the same distance;

(b) whether this is because the train is manned by a coal locomotive;

(c) whether Government would consider introduction of 'diesel engine' with the train; and

(d) if not reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION & SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The average speed of 15/16 Chetak Express, hauled by Steam Locomotive compares favourably with the average speed of all Mail/Express trains on metre gauge.

(c) and (d). The dieselisation of 15/16 Chetak Express has been considered but it would not result in substantial speeding up unless several intermediate stoppages are withdrawn.

Andaman and Lakshadweep shipping services

3037. SHRI DAULATSINJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of different ships operating in Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands;