

Passenger Train Cancellation due to Shortage of Coal

749. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of passenger trains had been cancelled in August and September, 1982 due to shortage of coal for locos;

(b) if so, which Zonal Railways were affected by these cancellations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Department of Coal has failed to keep its obligations to the Railways in the matter of supply of coal ;

(d) what was the average daily requirement of wagons of coal for passenger traffic in August and September, 1982 and what was the actual receipt from the Department of coal in the same period; and

(e) steps taken to avoid such cancellations in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHR MALLIKARJUN): (a) The maximum number of passenger trains which remained cancelled on any day due to shortage of coal during August and September, 1982 was 216 and 186 pairs respectively.

(b) The Zonal Railways affected by these cancellations were Central, Northern, North Eastern, Southern, South Central and Western Railways.

(c) and (d). Against the daily requirement of 1350 BG four wheeler wagons for passenger and goods services (inter-ministerial target of 1300) the average daily loading during the months of August and September, 1982 (upto 20-9-82) was 1164 and 1331 wagons per day respectively.

(e) A close liaison is being maintained with the Department of Coal and the coal producing authorities to step up availability of steam coal for the Rail-

ways. With improvement in Railways' coal stocks, the number of passenger trains cancelled has come down to 28 pairs as on 29-9-82 as against 216 pairs as on 24-8-82.

P.O.H. of Electric Locos at Kharagpur

750. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal to start Periodic Overhauling of electric Locos in Kharagpur South Eastern Railway workshops;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said proposal; and

(c) when that proposal will be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) POH of 40 electric locomotives per annum and special repairs to 8 electric locomotives per annum is proposed.

(c) Capacity for POH electric locomotives is being set up based on all India arisings. Where and when capacity is set up will depend on techno-economic and operational factors. No decision has yet been taken as to likely time, this project will be implemented.

Appointment of Retirement Railway Employees

751. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late the Railways are appointing casual workers and employees, in many departments, from amongst the retired Railway employees.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Railways will recruit regular workers and employees in place of such casual employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A limited number of retired railway employees are engaged on daily rates in the categories of Typists/Stenographers, Accounts Clerks, Commercial Clerks etc. as on ad-hoc measure pending availability of regular recruits through Railway Service Commissions. The services of such daily rated staff are dispensed with once regularly selected candidates are available.

Diesel Shed at Kharagpur

752. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed to start a diesel shed at Kharagpur and the said proposal had been accepted in the Railway Budget;

(b) in which year was the proposal first mooted and in which year Railway Budget did it first find a place;

(c) the present stage of actual implementation of the said proposal; and

(d) if there has been abnormal delay in starting the implementation of this proposal, the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to start actual work on this proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal was first mooted in 1979-80 for inclusion in the South Eastern Railway's Works Programme for 1980-81. It was approved in the Railway Budget for 1980-81 presented in June 1980.

(c) The abstract estimate for the diesel shed was sanctioned in March 1981. Presently the drawings are under finalisation.

(d) There has not been abnormal delay. However, there were some problems in the actual shed site in view of the very complicated lay out of Kharagpur and Nimpura yards, pattern of traffic in view of the new Steel Plants at Paradeep/Daiteri and Vishakhapatnam etc. These have been resolved and the work will be taken in hand with the finalisation of drawings.

Airy Delhi Transport Corporation Buses

753. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether over-crowding in Delhi Transport Corporation buses particularly in summer is unbearable and unhealthy a practice; and

(b) whether to obviate the above, Government propose to open the portion of the roof, over-head the driver, close to the destination plate (like that of Tourist Buses) and half-open the wind screen (left of driver) to make the buses more airy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Overcrowding certainly makes bus-travel uncomfortable particularly during summer. D.T.C. buses however, have cross-ventilation and no change in the present design is contemplated.

Reutilisation of Chassis of Condemned Buses

754. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether Government propose to re-utilise the chassis of condemned bus after undertaking necessary repair and removal of machine, as a trolley to a new bus, on straight routes, to cope with heavy rush?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITARAM