

**Express/Mail trains running late on Northern Railway during August-October, 1973**

3304. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Express/Mail trains which had been running late on the Northern Railway during the period from 1st August to 31st October, 1973; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the punctual running of these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) A statement showing the names of Express/Mail trains which had run late on 40 per cent or more of the occasions during the period 1st August to 31st October, 1973 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5900/73].

(b) Punctuality performance of trains on all railways including Northern Railway is closely watched at all levels by the Zonal Railways and for selected Mail/Express trains at Railway Board's level. Avoidable detentions are taken up and remedial action taken to improve the running of trains. In some trains, even alarm chain apparatus has been blanked off to effect an improvement in punctuality.

**Withdrawal of Chain facility in Himachal Express**

3305. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion has been received for withdrawal of the chain facility in Himachal Express, as the train is frequently delayed because of its misuse; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No such suggestion has been received. No. 53 Up/54 Dn Himachal Expresses are already running with their alarm-chain apparatus blanked off since April 1973.

(b) Does not arise.

**Flood Control Schemes in Bihar**

3306. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2237 on 7th August, 1973 regarding progress regarding implementation of Flood Control Schemes in Fourth Plan and state:

(a) whether the flood control schemes from Bihar mentioned therein have, since, been completed and the total amount earmarked for them spent;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to change the scheme Nos. 6, 7 and 8 from Bihar into flood-control-cum-Irrigation schemes particularly for the Bagmati and Kamala group of rivers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The schemes for the embankment on the right bank of Bagmati from Karachin to Badlaghat and raising and strengthening of Kamla Balan embankment have been completed. The other schemes of Bihar, which from part of the State Plan, are major ones requiring large outlays and, therefore, their construction has to be phased according to the availability of resources. Consequently, their completion will take some time.

During the 4th Plan, Central assistance to the States for the Plan schemes is in the form of bulk loans and grants without trying them to any