

2. 6043/6044 Madras-Patna Express from weekly to bi-weekly.
3. 6045/6046 Madras Ahmadabad Navjeevan Express from 6 days a week to daily.
4. 8301/8302 Hirakud Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.
5. 4863/4864 Marudhar Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.
6. 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad Express from weekly to tri-weekly.
7. 6339/6340 Nagercoil-Mumbai CST Express from weekly to tri-weekly.
8. 7003/7004 Howrah-Secunderabad Falaknuma Express from tri-weekly to daily.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to increase the frequency of 2421/2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from weekly to bi-weekly, on availability of additional Rajdhani rake from Production units.

Introduction of BOLT Scheme

333. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOSLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date of the introduction of BOLT scheme by Railways;

(b) the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) the details of private sector participation in the BOLT scheme in different Railway Projects; and

(d) the progress of those projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme was started by the Railways in November, 1994.

(b) To undertake some of the projects through investment by private sector, in view of a sharp reduction in budgetary support for Railways' expansion plans.

(c) The following firms submitted their bids for various projects under BOLT scheme :

Gauge Conversion & Doubling

1. M/s Western India Industries Ltd., Pune.
2. M/s Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd., Hyderabad.
3. M/s Hydron Enviro Systems Ltd., Ahmedabad.
4. M/s Indian Railway Constn. Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
5. M/s G.S. Pandey & Co., Gorakhpur.
6. M/s Mukand Ltd., Thane.
7. M/s Kalindee Rail Nirman (Engineers) Ltd., Jaipur.
8. M/s progressive constn., New Delhi.

9. M/s Tantia Constn., Calcutta.

10. M/s Kalindee Infrastructure Development (P) Ltd., New Delhi

Railway Electrification

1. M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Madras.
2. M/s KEC (International) Ltd., Madras.
3. M/s SAE (India) Ltd., New Delhi.
4. M/s SPIC-SMO Ltd., Madras.

Rolling Stock

1. M/s BHEL, Bhopal.
2. M/s IDBI, Bombay.
3. M/s IRCON, New Delhi.
4. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
5. M/s BESCO, Calcutta.
6. M/s CIMMCO, Calcutta.
7. M/s Tebma Engg. Ltd., Madras.
8. M/s BEML, Bangalore.
9. M/s SRF Finance, New Delhi.

Track Machines

1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria.
2. M/s Engineering Prestressed Antri Unit, Gwalior.
3. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
4. M/s Ameca, Italy.
5. M/s RAUTARUUKKI, Finland.
6. M/s Kershaw, USA.
7. M/s Loram, USA.

(d) Out of a total of 34 tenders for various projects invited under BOLT Scheme, contract has been awarded in four cases (Two for gauge conversion and two for rolling stock). 11 tender cases are under finalisation and 19 have been dropped.

Fare Increased by Konkan Railway Corporation

334. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Konkan Railway corporation has increased the passenger and the goods fare by 40% from September, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). In view of the high cost of construction, maintenance and operation charges coupled with low Internal Rate of

Return and the requirement for repayment of huge market borrowings by the Konkan Railway Corporation, the Central Government have sanctioned inflation in distance for charge which is @40% for Passenger and Other Coaching traffic and 50% for Goods Traffic on Konkan Railway. The imposition of inflation in distance is a normal practice on the Indian Railways for realisation of an economic Rate of Return on its Projects. Periodic Financial review of inflation in distance is undertaken for assessing the viability of the project and based on such study, the inflation in distance for charge is either reduced or withdrawn.

Heavy Rush in Karnataka Express

335 SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that heavy rush always remain in Karnataka Express running between Bangalore and New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run the Rajdhani Express running between Nizamuddin and Bangalore as a bi-weekly train; and

(c) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are periods of heavy rush in Karnataka Express between Bangalore and New Delhi.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to increase the frequency of Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani from weekly to bi-weekly on availability of additional Rajdhani rake.

Railway Enquiry System

336. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revised railway enquiry system is being introduced at Visakhapatnam railway station,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). An interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for giving computer generated response regarding running of passenger carrying trains has already been installed at Visakhapatnam. This system provides a direct telephonic interface of the person making enquiry with the computerised system. Such a person is guided and prompted to provide relevant details of the enquiry to the system to enable it to provide the requisite reply. In addition inquiries regarding running of passenger carrying trains are answered by the enquiry clerks on telephones or in person.

There is no proposal to make any change in the existing arrangements.

Earnings from Advertisements/Serials to Doordarshan

337 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of doordarshan's earnings/commercial revenue from advertisements and sponsorships during each of the last three years respectively;

(b) the programmes/serials helped earn the highest revenue during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to rise further in its earnings; and

(d) if so, the details of sources/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The gross revenue earned by Doordarshan during the past three years is as under :

Year	Gross Revenue (in Rs. crores)
1993-94	372.98
1994-95	398.02
1995-96	430.13

(b) The following are the highest revenue earning programmes/serials during the said period.

Hindi Feature Films, Chitrahaar, Rangoli, Chandrakanta, Tehkikat, Alif Laila, BPL Ek Se Badkar Ek, Junoon, Superhit Mucabala, Shri Krishna, and Kanoon.

(c) and (d) it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to maximise its commercial revenues without compromising with its social and national objectives and the quality of its programmes.

Modernisation of RSP and BSP

338 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation work of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) is being done as per the target fixed therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress of work done so far, plant-wise;