

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works

935. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incentive scheme showed good results in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Workshops;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce this scheme to all the mechanical shops; and

(c) when this will be introduced and the number of employees to be covered by this scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Incentive scheme has already been introduced in all the major mechanical workshops of the Indian Railways. The number of men that are likely to be covered by the scheme are approximately 85,000, out of which about 48,000 men have already been covered.

Burning of Wooden Sleepers

936. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry committee was set up to find out the reasons for burning of wooden sleepers at Bimlagarh in February, 1962;

(b) if so, whether it was a departmental enquiry or some outsiders were appointed for this purpose; and

(c) whether the conclusion of the enquiry shows that bad stacking arrangement was responsible for the fire?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) This was a Departmental Enquiry Committee consisting of three Junior Administrative Officers.

(c) No. The fire was accidental.

Konkan-Goa Steamer Service

937. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passengers between Konkan and Goa and Bombay are suffering great hardship due to bad management of ferry services of steamers plying on the western coast; and

(b) if so, whether sailing schedule can be fixed 20 days ahead and widely published and tickets made available 15 days ahead bearing the date of sailing to avoid rush and uncertainty?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Passengers between Bombay and Konkan ports/Goa are sometimes put to hardship due to irregularity of, and breakdowns in, the ferry service as there are only five vessels (against six required) in the service including three over-age units which suffer frequent and sudden breakdowns. However, another shipping company has now been permitted to build three new ships for this service.

(b) The sailing schedules are fixed and widely published by the management but due to the uncertainty of the service arising from the position explained above, it is not always possible to adhere to them. As the vessels have different passenger capacities varying from 527 to 1041, the management find it impracticable to sell tickets 15 days in advance of sailings. The tickets are, therefore, sold only one or two days in advance i.e. when it is definitely known which vessel would be available for the sailing in question.

Pondicherry Port

938. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state