

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	% of telegrams delivered with in 12 days light hours.	93.5/88.4	91.6/92.0	91.7/92.4	91.7/93.0

[Translation]

#### Requirement of Railway Coaches/Wagons

1988. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

DR. G.R. SARODE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing acute shortage of wagons and coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(c) whether it has seriously affected the revenue earnings;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the additional requirement of wagons/coaches, zone-wise;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding shortage of wagons and coaches;

(g) if so, the details thereof, zone/division-wise; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to meet the requirement of wagons and coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Judged in the context of the Railways' freight target, there is no shortage of wagons. However, in relation to the total demand in the country for rail transport, there are pockets of unsatisfied demand in some areas. The present fleet of coaches is adequate to run scheduled passenger services.

(e) The requirement of wagons/coaches is assessed for the entire Indian Railways (not zone-wise) based on expected materialisation of traffic and efficiency of utilisation. The requirement of wagons and coaches in 1996-97 has been worked out as 25,000 wagons (in Four Wheeler Units) and 2096 coaches (including EMUs, MEMUs and DMUs). In addition, 5000 wagons are expected to be procured under 'Own Your Wagon Scheme'.

(f) and (g). Generally, there are presently no complaints about shortage of wagons. However, complaints are received regarding cleanliness/conditions of coaches and for provision of new coaches on trains in their areas.

(h) Need based procurement of wagons and coaches consistent with the availability of resources

and production capacity. Besides customers are being encouraged to buy wagons under 'Own Your Wagon Scheme'. Efforts are also being made to improve utilisation of assets.

#### I.A. Accident

1989. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "IA high risk airline: IATA" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated October 29, 1996;

(b) If so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines is having a higher accident rate than the world average;

(d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. International Air Transport Association (IATA) has denied having incorporated in its safety report safety statistics related to safety performance of any specific airline including Indian Airlines.

(c) and (d). The accident rate of Indian Airlines is slightly higher than world average since the flying by Indian Airlines is much less compared to cumulative flying by world Airlines. As a result even a single accident will result in shooting up the accident rate.

(e) Steps are continuously taken to enhance the level of air safety by upgrading the facilities at the airports, monitoring of flight recorders, safety audit of airlines, adherence to laid down procedures, and weather minima, implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, dissemination of safety information, carrying out periodic inspection of aerodromes, conducting safety seminars etc.

#### Provident Fund Deposit

1990. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make some changes in the investment pattern of Provident Fund

and enlargement of the social security network for the majority of workers:

(b) If so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government also propose to review the restrictions imposed on the investment of this money in order to accrue maximum benefits to the members of the employees Provident Fund without jeopardizing the security of the money held by the fund; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The Employees Provident Fund monies collected but not immediately required for disbursement are being invested as per the investment pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. The pattern of investment has been reviewed and from 1.10.1996 it has been decided to invest 40% amount in Banks / Public Financial Institutions and 20% in the special deposit scheme as against 30% amount deposited earlier in each category. The remaining 40% amount continues to be invested in the Government securities.

#### Link Train from Meta Road to Bikaner

1991. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have provided link train from Meta road to Bikaner to give connection to Howrah-Jodhpur Express Train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people of Bikaner as well as people of Calcutta are demanding another superfast train from Howrah to Bikaner; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 2307A/2308A Bikaner-Meta Road Link Express running in conjunction with 2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Express has been introduced from 12-9-96.

(c) and (d). Some representations have been received in this regard. These were examined but introduction of the train has not been found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Parties holding Contracts at Allahabad Railway Station

1992. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of parties which are holding catering and vending contracts etc. at Allahabad Railway Station;

(b) whether licence fees of these contractors are being fixed by the Railway Administration based on the number of vendors officially permitted;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the contractors are employing a quite large number of vendors than those officially permitted causing loss to railway revenue; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c). The licence fee is fixed by the Railway Administration keeping in view all relevant factors including, *inter-alia*, the vendors permitted.

(d) and (e). Regular and surprise checks are conducted by Railway Administration and suitable remedial measures are taken.

#### STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Licencee	Nature of Contract
1.	M/s Sanjay Sandip Sonkar	Fresh Fruit
2.	M/s Amna Ali	Fresh Fruit
3.	Shri Munne Khan	Fresh Fruit
4.	Shri Mehboob Khalil	Fresh Fruit
5.	Shri J.H. Abidi	Fresh Fruit Juice
6.	M/s H.P.M.C.	Apple Juice
7.	Shri Mehboob Usmani	Fruit & Fruit Juice
8.	Smt. Siraj Nazir	Fresh Fruit Juice and Salad
9.	Shri-Anant Ram Chaurasia	Tea/Biscuit
10.	Shri Iqbal Ahmed	Tea/Coffee/Biscuit
11.	Shri Kamla Devi	Tea/Biscuit/Bread
12.	Smt. Nirmala Devi	Cigarette/Bidi/Pan/Matches
13.	Shri Suresh Kumar Rakesh	Misc. Articles

#### Goods Trains

1993. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that to cope with the capacity problem, Government had made a strategic plan, at the suggestion of a NRI, to operate 9000 tonnes-12000 tonnes per goods train, instead of 3600 tonnes-4500 tonnes per train;

(b) if so, whether the NRI had demonstrated the system successfully in 1989 in Kirliburu-Bokaro line with 9000 tonnes iron ore in a train and trained drivers of SER to operate such longer/heavier trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the economic benefits of heavy haul and the present status of that project?