

(d) No separate earning figures are maintained for Tourist Cars. However, the total earnings from Special Trains and Reserved Coaches, which is inclusive of Tourist Cars was Rs. 4.57 crores during 1996-97.

[English]

### Doubling of Railway Lines

4379. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a emphasis on doubling of rail lines by the Railways during 1980-81 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the increase in the net profit due to this exercise;

(c) whether the rolling stock has gone out of use due to unigauge of railway lines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the unused property so as to reduce the imbalances of the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. There was no special emphasis on doubling either in 1980-81 or 1993-94.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) In order to reduce the imbalances of the railways, inter-railway transfer of wagons is being resorted to.

[Translation]

### Use of Hindi

4380. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the internal official work of Civil Aviation Ministry is done in English only and Official Language Act is being ignored;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to give due importance to Hindi in day-to-day working ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Instructions issued by the Rajbhasa Vibhag from time to time regarding use of official language Hindi in the day-to-day work are being followed in the Ministry as far as possible.

[English]

### Changes in the Laws

4381. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in the laws pertaining to Group Housing Society and House Building Society, in Delhi;

(b) whether unlike the cities of Mumbai and Calcutta etc. where the laws relating to Group Housing Society have been successful whereas in Delhi it has not been successful where original members of the society have been selling houses/flats against power of attorney;

(c) if so, what protection do the PAs (power of attorneys) have and whether they will be permitted to become members of the society in place of original members;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amount which the Government is losing by not allowing registration and transfer of plots by Power of Attorney ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Construction of Railway Line between Gadag and Wadi

4382. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary survey work has been taken up for laying of new railway line between Gadag and Wadi;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for preliminary survey;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the work on the above line is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new broad gauge line between Gadag and Wadi was carried out in 1997-98 at a cost of Rs. 12.60 lakhs. The results of the survey have revealed that the cost of the 252.50 kms, long line will be Rs. 457.72 crores with a negative Rate of Return.

Due to the unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the project has been shelved.

#### **Induction of Group 'B' Officer in Group 'A'**

4383. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to amend the provisions in the rules to debar the induction of group 'B' Railway Board Secretariat officers into IRPS group 'A'; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Fifth Pay Commission have recommended that in the light of present cadre strength the induction of RBSS officers in the IRPS should not be allowed. The Ministry of Railways have accepted the above recommendation.

#### **Losses to MECL**

4384. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has been running at losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to revive the different units of MECL which have fallen sick; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the losses incurred by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) from 1991-92 onwards are as under :

1. Losses upto 1991-92	Rs. 3.83 crores
2. Loss during 1992-93	Rs. 10.29 crores
3. Loss during 1993-94	Rs. 11.16 crores
4. Loss during 1994-95	Rs. 11.99 crores
5. Loss during 1995-96	Rs. 12.32 crores
6. Loss during 1996-97	Rs. 4.16 crores
7. Loss during 1997-98	Rs. 2.62 crores

The main reasons for losses are as under :

(i) Reduction in contractual and promotional work availability commensurate with its capacity built-up over the years.

(ii) Drastic reduction in Government budgetary support to all public sector undertakings, especially to Coal India Ltd., who is one of the major clients of MECL.

(iii) In the liberalised scenario, a number of renowned international companies established their Indian outfits who are bidding for various jobs in the mineral sector including exploration work resulting in reduction of traditional business for MECL.

(iv) High proportions of wage bill compared to the total turn-over.

(v) Decrease in overall operational efficiency of the Company.

(c) and (d) The Government of India, Department of Mines constituted an Expert Committee for revival of MECL in June, 95 which submitted its report in November, 1995. Following the recommendations made by the Expert Committee, the Government has been implementing a package for revival of MECL which included the administrative and financial restructuring of the company and improving its operational productivity. This has resulted in reducing the losses of the company significantly.

#### **Permission for Construction of Multistorey Buildings**

4385. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Urban Arts Commission has permitted construction of multistoreyed buildings near