

(b) whether most of the persons in this industry belong to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward classes and women;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether permission has been granted by the Government for manufacturing of small cigarettes in competition with beedis;

(e) if so, whether beedi producers have suffered losses due to manufacturing of small cigarettes; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to see the interests of beedi industries and the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) There are about 44-lakh beedi workers in the country.

(b) and (c) According to a recent sample survey conducted by Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, the percentage of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC categories engaged in beedi making is 15.2%, 3.3% and 43.3% respectively. As per the same survey, the women in the factory worker category and home worker category constitute about 50% and 68% respectively, of the total workers engaged in beedi making.

(d) to (f) The cigarette manufacture requires Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The licence so issued under this provision does not, however, specify the length of cigarette. Industrial licences for the manufacture of cigarettes are granted in terms of number and not lengthwise. The differentiation on the basis of length of cigarette is relevant for the purpose of excise duty.

The Government have received representations from beedi manufacturers and beedi workers suggesting increase in the rate of excise duty on the non-filter cigarettes of length not exceeding 60 mm on the ground that the level of excise on such cigarettes is having adverse impact on beedi industry. The rate of excise duty on such cigarettes has been increased from Rs. 60/- per thousand in 1994-95 to Rs. 75/- per thousand in 1996-97, to Rs. 90/- per thousand in 1997-98, and to Rs. 100/- per thousand in 1998-99. In the budget for the year 1999-2000, the rate of excise duty on such cigarettes has been fixed at Rs. 110/- per thousand sticks.

Railway Reservation Terminals to Private Agencies

*342. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant

Railway Reservation Terminal to private agencies; and

(b) if so, the reasons and advantages thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal to provide Passenger Reservation System (PRS) terminals on an experimental basis to travel agents authorised under Rail Tourist Agents Scheme and Rail Travellers Service Agents Scheme of the railways at the party's cost and with suitable safeguards etc. in order to facilitate rail reservation to common man. The provision of this facility would result in availability of more reservation counters, reduced waiting time for purchasing tickets, etc.

4-9 *Railways* Summer special trains

*343. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Summer Special trains to meet the extra rush of passengers during Summer seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their starting and terminating place, zone-wise;

(c) whether coaches of all categories are likely to be provided in long distance trains, specially South bound trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether catering arrangements including pantry cars are likely to be provided with all the long distance trains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the alternative catering arrangements made for long distance passengers on board?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Around 2270 Summer Special trains will run on 40 popular routes from 10th April to end of June 1999 having the following classes of accommodation. viz. Ordinary 11nd class, Sleeper Class, Chair car, 1st class, AC. Chair Car, Executive Chair Car and AC 2-tier. Further augmentation of coaches in at least 68 popular trains is also being done during the summer season. As is evident from the data below, highest number of Summer Specials so far will be run during the current year.

Year	Number of special trains
1995	1155
1996	1214
1997	1347
1998	1959
1999	2270

A list of summer Specials zone-wise which have been planned is placed at the Statement attached.

(e) and (f) 8 Summer Special trains are being provided with Pantry Services. Instructions have already been issued to the Railways to monitor the arrangements of catering services in Summer Special trains by strengthening the existing Catering/Vending arrangements for Static Units by ensuring proper supervision of conveyance of Meal Messages from the trains, execution of orders from base kitchens/ Refreshment Rooms and prompt supply to the passengers, selling good quality Economy Meals, Janata Khana, Fast Food items etc. at the stations and in the trains.

Statement

List of Summer Specials zone-wise

S.No.	Zone	Route	Frequency	Composition
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Central	Mumbai-Madgaon	Triweekly	Chair car ordinary, A.C. Chair Car, Pantry Car, second class cum luggage
2.		Kurla-Varanasi	Daily	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, chair car ordinary, second class cum luggage
3.		Kurla-Varanasi	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, chair car ordinary, second class cum luggage
4.		Pune-Gorakhpur	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, chair car ordinary, second class cum luggage
5.		Kurla-Patna-Darbhanga	Bi-Weekly	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
6.		Mumbai-Ernakulam	Weekly	Sleeper class, A.C.2-Tier, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
7.	Western	Ahmadabad-Varanasi via Lucknow	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
8.		Ahmadabad-Varanasi Via Allahabad	Weekly	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
9.		Mumbai-Porbandar	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
10.		Mumbai-Gandhidham	Triweekly	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
11.		Ajmer-Mumbai	Triweekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
12.		Ahmadabad-Chennai	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage

1	2	3	4	5
13.		Jaipur-Bangalore	Weekly	A.C.2-tier, ordinary second class, sleeper class, second class cum luggage
14.		Gandhidham-Delhi	BI-Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
15.	Eastern	Howrah-New Delhi	4 Days	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
16.		Howrah-Dehradun	Weekly	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
17.	Southern	Chennai-Quilon	Daily	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, First class, second class cum luggage
18.		Bangalore-Kottayam	Alternate Day	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, First class, second class cum luggage
19.		Chennai-Egmore-Tirunelveli	Daily	Chair car ordinary, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
20.		Nagercoil-Dadar	Weekly	Sleeper Class, A.C.2-tier, first class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
21.		Chennai-Coimbatore	BI-Weekly	Sleeper Class, A.C.2-tier, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
22.		Chennai-Dadar	BI-Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, Second class cum luggage
23.		Virudnagar-Sengottai	Daily	Ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
24.	North-Eastern	Darbhanga-Delhi	BI-Weekly	Second class cum luggage, sleeper class, ordinary second class
25.		Kurla-Gorakhpur	Daily	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
26.	Northern	Nizamuddin-Jammu Tawi	5 Days	Ordinary Second class, sleeper class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage
27.		New Delhi-Dehradun	BI-Weekly	Ordinary second class, sleeper class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage
28.		Kalka-Mumbai	4 Days	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage
29.		Lucknow-Kathgodam	Triweekly	A.C. Chair car, first class chair car, second class cum luggage
30.		Nizamuddin-Chennai	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage

1	2	3	4	5
31.		Bangalore-Nazamuddin	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
32.	South-Eastern	Howrah-Chennai	BI-Weekly	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage
33.		Howrah-Mumbai	BI-Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, second class cum luggage
34.		Visakhapatnam-Chennai	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage, pantry car,
35.	North-Frontier	Dadar-Guwahati	Fortnightly	Sleeper, first class, ordinary second, A.C.2-tier, second cum luggage, pantry car
36.		Guwahati-Chennai	Fortnightly	Sleeper class, first class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-Tier, Second Class cum luggage, pantry car
37.	South Central	Nizamuddin-Secunderabad	Weekly	Sleeper class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage
38.		Secunderabad-Dadar	Weekly	Ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, sleeper class, second class cum luggage
39.		Secunderabad-Ahmadabad	Weekly	A.C.2-tier, ordinary second class, sleeper class, second class cum luggage
40.		Vasco-Chennai	BI-Weekly	Sleeper Class, ordinary second class, A.C.2-tier, second class cum luggage

9-10

Television
T.V. Serial Shaktimaan

*344. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prasar Bharati Corporation has backtracked its decision to take Shaktimaan off the air from Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the complaints/suggestions received from various quarters, Prasar Bharati had decided to discontinue the telecast of the serial 'Shaktimaan'. A notice to this effect was accordingly sent to the producers of the serial asking them to wind it up with effect from 23-03-99. However, the producers approached the High Court of Delhi against this decision of Prasar Bharati. The Hon'ble High Court vide its order dated

19-03-99 constituted a committee of 3 eminent persons to examine the matter in its entirety. The Hon'ble High Court has further ordered that the telecast of the serial on Doordarshan will continue till the report of the said committee is received. The serial is thus being telecast at present as per High Court orders.

[Translation]

10-11

Railways

Separate Fund for Manning Unmanned Level Crossings

*345. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to create a separate fund to man all the unmanned railway crossings in the country;