

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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) Yes, Sir. On 24.8.1998 Up STA Passenger train arrived Chaleshar Station at 9.00 hrs. from Shikohabad. The train was checked for ticketless travellers by Asstt. Commercial Manager and other Staff. During the checking one passenger jumped off the train and fell on the track. His leg got amputated under the moving train. After the checking staff had left the station, the passengers got agitated and the Station Master along with other railway staff was manhandled. Window panes and telephones were broken and the Station Records were set on fire.

(c) and (d) On intimation a case vide No. 235/98 under section 146,151 of Railway Act and Section 147,436,427 of Indian Penal Code was registered at Government Railway Police Station, Tundla against unknown passengers. The case was investigated by GRP authorities. However, the accused could not be identified and therefore, the case was closed vide final report No. 27 dated 12.10.1998.

[English]

Public Utility Services at Ahmedabad Airport

3090. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ahmedabad Airport lacks public utility services for the passengers and for those accompanying them;

(b) if so, whether there is no seating arrangements for the passengers and the charges for refreshments are also very high;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to provide the seating arrangements there and the charges for the refreshment be charged at par that are being charged at other airports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The seating arrangements are provided inside the terminal building. However, at the time of bunching of flights, there is over crowding in the Departure Hall. The prices charged for refreshments are reasonable. The Airports Authority of India has initiated action for extending the holding lounge and provide a hall for visitors in front of both domestic departure hall and arrival hall of the international terminal building.

Expenditure Incurred on Maintenance of MP Flats

3091. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of M.P. flats in South Avenue and North Avenue during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the maintenance staff has been reduced during the above period;

(c) if not, the reason for awarding contract to contractors to carry out petty work therein; and

(d) the number of complaints received against the works carried out by contractors and the action taken by the Government on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Details of expenditure on the maintenance of MP flats in South Avenue and North Avenue during the last three years is given as under :-

Year	Expenditure (in lakhs)
1995-96	Rs.372.32
1996-97	Rs.491.93
1997-98	Rs.558.12

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Availability of Departmental labour is sufficient to attend only day to day complaints. Other works like periodical repairs and minor works are got done through contractors.

(d) No complaints has been received against the works carried out by the contractors.

Case Against Stainless Steel Bright Bars

3092. SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lost the case against Stainless Steel Bright Bars in European Union;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether some Indian companies have been exempted from countervailing duty;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which export of steel bars are likely to be affected by this decision of EU; and

(e) steps taken to improve the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) On the basis of complaints filed by the European industry the European Commission had initiated Anti-Subsidy proceedings in October 1997 against the Stainless Steel Bright Bars (SSBBs) originating from India, alleging that the Indian Government provides subsidies to its exporters through its export promotional schemes under Exim Policy viz. EPZ Scheme, Pass Book Scheme/Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, EPCG Scheme and the Income Tax exemption provided to the exporters. As no unit/company was located in the Export processing Zones, the EC dropped this from the purview of subsidy.

However, the EC concluded their investigations saying that the benefits accrued under these schemes amounted to countervailable subsidies causing injury to the domestic industry.

(c) and (d) No countervailing duty has been imposed by the Commission on two units, viz. M/s Panchmahal Steel Ltd., Baroda and M/s Parekh Bright Bars Private Ltd. The imposition of countervailing duties is expected to have an adverse impact on the export of Indian Stainless Steel Bars to EU. It is however, difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the impact.

(e) Government has taken several steps to boost exports of steel. One of these is, a Steel Exporters' Forum under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel has been set up with major steel producers/associations as its members. The main objectives of the Forum inter-alia include :

- (a) To support, protect, maintain, increase and promote export of iron and steel by such methods as may be necessary or expedient.
- (b) Identify potential export markets through intensive market research and develop products to meet specific demands in the international markets.

Some of the other measures taken by the Government to facilitate exports include :

- (i) Full convertibility of export earnings at market rate of exchange;
- (ii) Facility available to Exporters to import their requirement of raw materials duty free under the Advance Licensing Scheme;
- (iii) Refund of the duty paid on any imported or excisable material used in the manufacture of export goods;

(iv) Exemption of export earning from income tax under Section 80 HHC; and

(v) Enhancement of duty credit rates under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel.

Cheating in MES

3093. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "Five Former MES officials chargesheeted" appearing in the Times of India dated October 2, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported, therein; and

(c) the steps taken to cleanse the MES of the rampant corruption?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five officers of the MES were chargesheeted for awarding a contract at highly exorbitant rates for supply, installation and commissioning of a mechanical laundry plant at R and R Hospital, Delhi Cantt. Prosecution against all the officers and trial are being undertaken by the Special CBI Court.

(c) While regular vigilance is being kept to prevent malpractices in the functioning of the MES, additional steps like streamlining of selection of contractors by a committee of senior officers, increasing frequency of vigilance checks, expediting disciplinary proceedings and other steps are being undertaken.

Increase of Coaches

3094. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demands were received by the Government to increase the number of coaches in EMU train between Baroda-Godhara-Baroda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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) At present, EMU trains are not running between Vadodara and Godhra. However, requests including from Smt. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel, MP have been received for increasing the coaches in MEMU trains on Vadodara-Godhra section.