

### Derailments of Trains in Bihar

3072. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been three cases of derailments of trains in quick succession in a particular section in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is evidence that these derailments are due to sabotage;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has taken any steps to investigate into these acts of sabotage;

(e) whether any suspects have been apprehended;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the financial loss suffered by the Railways due to these derailments of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There had been three cases of derailment of trains on Mughalsarai-Patna section of Eastern Railways during the years 1996-97, two in the State of Bihar and one in Uttar Pradesh. Details of these derailments are as under:

(1) On 23.4.96, ten coaches of 5622 North East Express derailed between Zamania and Uttar Pradesh

(2) On 19.8.96, twelve coaches of 2302 Poorva Express derailed between Durmaon and Raruna stations of Danapur Division in the State of Bihar.

(3) On 14.11.96 twelve coaches of 3050 Amritsar Howrah Express derailed between Banahi and Bihiya stations of Danapur Division in the State of Bihar.

(c) The above derailments were due to suspected sabotage and the cases are still under investigation with the Police.

(d) to (f). Both the cases of derailments in Bihar have been registered by Government Railway Police/Buxar and by Government Railway Police/Ara respectively. Final reports on these cases are still awaited.

(g) The financial loss suffered by the Railway due to these three derailments is Rs. 1.43 crores, approximately.

### Corruption in Tech & Wireless Planning & Coord. Wing

3073. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to newsitem captioned 'Telecom money-

spinner' appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated August 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any preventive measures have been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has noted and analysed the contents of the news item. The departmental rules and regulations have been followed while deciding various issues.

(c) and (d). The tendering process has been reviewed and made more transparent to instil confidence amongst the tenderers. A calendar of tenders has been notified well in advance. The number of vendors and the percentage of quantity of orders proposed to be placed on them are notified at the time of tendering. Recently, the Department has finalised a Vendor Rating System for introduction on experimental basis. All these measures are likely to instil confidence in the tendering system.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.

[Translation]

### Telephone Connection in Rajasthan

3074. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that applications for telephone connections in respect of number of the people of rural areas falling under the jurisdiction of TDM, Ajmer district of Rajasthan is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the time by which telephone services are likely to be provided in these rural areas where more than 10-15 persons have already deposited forms and requisite fee;

(e) whether the entire old and new tehsil headquarters or major townships of Ajmer district have been connected with STD services; and

(f) if not, the time by which these places are likely to be connected with STD services and the places from which applications in this regard are lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of pending applications in various telephone exchanges

in rural areas of Ajmer district, are as Under:

Exchange	Pending applications
Pranheda	2
Ghogra	6
Kadel	2

These are long distance connections of about 9 Km distance in case of Ghogra and 11 Km. in case of Kadel. These connections are planned to be provided during 1997-98. Line and wire material is being procured.

(d) There are 11 places where 10-15 persons have already deposited forms. The telephone services are planned to be provided during 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

#### E.D. Employees

3075. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the committee appointed to study the working conditions of E.D. Staff in the Postal Department has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) One man Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Talwar, retired Judge of Delhi High Court has been set up to examine the conditions of services and emoluments and other facilities available to the Extra-Departmental Agents. The tenure of the Justice Talwar Committee has been extended on existing terms and conditions for a further period from 1.10.96 to 15.2.97 or three months from the date of submission of the report of the Vth Pay Commission, whichever is later.

#### Registration of SCs/STs & OBCs

3076. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons and persons belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes registered with the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu as on October, 1996;

(b) the number of persons belonging to above categories provided employment during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the quota fixed for the above categories has been filled up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu is indicated below :

Categories	No. on Live Register (in thousands)
1. Physically Handicapped (as on 31st December, 1995) (latest available)	47.2
2. Scheduled Caste (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	738.5
3. Scheduled Tribe (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	11.8

Information relating to Other Backward Classes are not maintained.

(b) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers placed in employment by the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu during the year 1993, 1994 and 1995 is indicated below :

Year	Number placed in employment (in thousands)		
	Physically Handicapped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1993	1.1	5.2	0.2
1994	0.9	2.5	0.1
1995	0.9	1.3*	0.1*

\* Related to Jan.-June, 1995.

(c) and (d). As per the demand of employers, the Employment Exchanges submit the list of handicapped candidates as also the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for filling up to the vacancies reserved for them.

#### Decline of Workers in Gulf Country

3077. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of persons going to Gulf countries for work from the country has been continuously declining;