

*[English]***Recovery of Dues**

2477. LT. GEN. (RETD.) PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has sought the help of Law Ministry to recover a sum of Rs. 1300 crore from a private company in respect of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the present status of the matter; and

(c) the total amount to be recovered by Doordarshan from various private companies as on date and the steps initiated by it to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No single private company/agency owes an outstanding amount to the tune of Rs. 1300 crores to Doordarshan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 40 crores (approx.) is outstanding against various agencies. Doordarshan is taking recourse to contractual provision including encashment of bank guarantee, deaccreditation of errant agencies and legal action for recovering the dues. Programmes of major defaulting agencies are also taken off the air and no fresh programmes are allotted to them.

Introduction of Trains

2478. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations/requests/proposals from the State Governments, Members of Parliament and various organisations regarding the introduction of trains in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Train-wise and Place-wise;

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

(d) the number of new trains started and proposed to be started during 1997, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations are received for introduction of trains at various levels of the Railway Administration. As the information is voluminous and involves repetition these are not compiled Train-wise and zone-wise.

(c) and (d) Introduction of trains is an ongoing process depending upon the traffic justification, resource availability and operational feasibility. During 1997-98, the No. of Express trains (single) introduced/proposed to be introduced on zone-wise originating basis include :

Railway	No. of Trains
Central	2
Eastern	3
Northern	14
North Eastern	5
North East Frontier	3
Southern	9
South Central	3
South Eastern	4
Western	7
Total	50

Post Haste

2479. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Post Haste' appearing in the, Hindustan Times, dated April 30, 1977;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is an inordinate delay in the distribution of postal mail in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Post Haste" appearing in Hindustan Times dated

30.4.1997. The facts of the news item and the reaction of the Government thereto are as follows :

1. One, Shri Vasant Sharma complained about delay in delivery and lack of Post Office facility. The matter of delay in delivery was enquired into and the Chief Postmaster General Delhi Circle is taking suitable action against the postmen concerned. As regards opening of Post Offices, there are 2 Post offices in Rohini at present and 3 more Post Offices have been sanctioned for opening and they will be opened subject to availability of suitable accommodation.

2. Mrs. P.L. Vishalakshi had complained about problem at the counter in encashment of National Savings Certificates. It is reported that this problem occurred due to unavoidable heavy pressure at the counters at the end of the financial year despite providing additional manpower.

3. Regarding the delay in payment of Money Orders especially for Bihar. Money Orders are generally delivered in time. Individual case of delay are inquired into and suitable action is taken to avoid these delays. Processing of complaint cases in respect of Money Orders in Delhi Circle has now been centralised in the Customer Care Centre. Complaint cases are processed quickly and duplicate Money Orders are issued on completion of one month from the date of issue of the Money Order if a complaint of non-payment is received.

4. Alleged bungling in the distribution of magazines: To avoid non-delivery of magazines, periodicals etc., a special watch is kept on the prompt delivery of these items.

5. Non-opening of 10 new Post Offices sanctioned for Delhi: These Post Offices could not be opened due to non-availability of accommodation and in some cases due to demand of rent at exorbitant commercial rates.

(d) and (e) The distribution of mail in the rural areas is generally satisfactory. However, occasional delay in delivery of mails may occur due to unforeseen transportation problems, natural calamities, inadequacy of delivery manpower, sudden and exceptional increase in the volume of mails like Corporate and Greetings mail, etc.

The Government systematically monitors and reviews at the field and headquarters level, the delivery of mails in the rural areas and remedial measures are taken wherever deficiencies are noticed.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Lines

2480. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to lay double track railway line from Hazipur to

Barabanki and Matni Junction to Varanasi railway station of North Eastern Railway;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to run fast trains on above route; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Doubling between Gorakhpur and Barabanki is being done in a phased manner. In the first phase doubling has been taken up between Gonda and Jarwal Road and between Gorakhpur and Sahjanwa. Between Muzaffarpur and Gorakhpur doubling will be achieved by having a 2nd BG line through gauge conversion of MG route via Narkatiaganj. Rest of the section will be taken up in a phased manner after completing Phase-I work.

The traffic on Bhatni-Varanasi section has not yet reached a level to justify its doubling.

(b) The cost of the Phase-I doubling Works already sanctioned as detailed in part (a) is Rs. 75.00 crs.

(c) The work on these two sections under Phase-I is expected to be completed within the 9th five year plan.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Increase in Frequency of Delhi-Madras-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express

2481. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are proposals for increasing the frequency of Delhi-Madras-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.