

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
(a) 20 cases (8 old & 12 received during 1995-96).

(b) After preliminary investigations only one Group A officer was found involved and departmental proceedings have been initiated against him. Preliminary investigation in respect of two Group B Officers is under process.

(c) 12 cases received and got preliminary investigated departmentally. Complaints found not substantiated in 10 cases on preliminary investigation & hence closed. Complaint in one case closed due to death of the officer against whom received. Departmental proceedings initiated in one case.

(d) Normally action is initiated by Vigilance Section on complaints, but it can also initiate action if a malpractice or misconduct of its employees is noticed through its own system of intelligence.

(e) and (f) Functioning of the Vigilance Section in the Ministry has been reviewed recently and the Annual Action Plan for the year 1997-98 on vigilance and anti corruption measures drawn by Department of Personnel & Training has been adopted by the Ministry. The Action Plan broadly covers preventive vigilance; surveillance and detection and deterrent punitive action. Several steps have been initiated to strengthen the vigilance machinery in the Ministry as a follow up to the Action Plan, such as identification of sensitive posts and rotational posting thereon and identification of corruption prone areas etc.

Loss by Calcutta Metro Railways

390. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RUP CHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Metro Railway has incurred a loss of Rs. 18.64 crores during 1996-97 as against Rs. 13.78 crores during 1995-96, while the number of passengers on the Metro has gone up during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

((c) the sale amount of passenger tickets turn-out in 1995-96 and 1996-97 in Calcutta Metro;

(d) the working expenses of Metro Railway during the same period category-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken to cut down loss in the Calcutta Metro ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Calcutta Metro has incurred a loss of Rs. 19.77 crore in 1996-97 as against Rs. 13.78 crore during 1995-96.

The losses have increased on account of increase in the fixed and the variable components of the cost of Metro operations as also increase in the number of train services.

(c) The revenue earnings on account of sale of tickets etc. is as under :

Year	No. of Passengers (in crores)	Earnings (in crore of Rs.)
1995-96	4.33	11.70
1996-97	6.26	17.42

(d) Working expenses are as under :

Year	(in crore of Rupees)					
	Gross working expenses	Appropriation to reserve fund	Net working expenses	Main categories of working expenses		
				Staff	Energy	Maintenance
1995-96	25.48	3.23	22.25	6.78	11.02	2.20
1996-97	37.19	4.15	33.04	10.92	14.96	3.01

(e) (i) The fare structure is proposed to be revised.

(ii) State Government has been approached for rationalisation of bus routes along Metro corridor to eliminate unhealthy competition and to optimise the utilisation of assets.

(iii) State Government has been requested to restore the concessional rate for electrical energy which was withdrawn since November, 1996.

(iv) To utilise the space available at Metro Stations and outside for advertisement and other commercial use.

Losses Suffered by Doordarshan

391. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sponsors of news-based programmes "Aaj Tak" and "To Night" programme were liberally allowed Free Commercial Time (F.C.T.) during July 17, 1996 to October, 1996 and February, 1995 to September, 1996 respectively;

(b) if so, the losses suffered during the above period;

(c) whether the issue has been probed into and the defaulters brought to book ; and