

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the telecasting time of Shimla Doordarshan Kendra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3 to 4 years, after approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Voluntary Organisation for Welfare Schemes

5247. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by his Ministry of by the concerned Ministries to inform Voluntary Organisations about various welfare schemes which are intended to be implemented through them;

(b) whether in the absence of providing timely information in the local languages, these organisations are not in a position to take advantage of the schemes; and

(c) whether the Government propose to bring changes by utilising the services of the State Governments, nodal voluntary agencies, the press, electronic media etc., so that more and more Voluntary agencies will come forward to implement these welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Daily Running of Trains

5248. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains Ganga-Jamuna and Sarayu-Jamuna run between Ayodhya to Delhi are proposed to be plied daily;

(b) if so, the date by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Railway Heading Towards Debt Trap

5249. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are heading towards debt trap;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the new projects proposed in the Budget are insufficient to meet the necessities of tribals; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) This Govt. has decided to accord priority to projects in backward and tribal areas to expedite their development. A number of new projects have been taken up in the last one year in such areas. Further, more projects will be sanctioned in future, depending upon availability of funds and budgetary support from the Government.

[Translation]

Heavy Passenger Traffic

5250. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing passenger traffic on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delh-Rewari sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to electrify the Delhi-Jind and Delhi-Rewari railway sections so as to provide superfast rail facilities like E.M.U. to the passengers of these areas;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard; and

(f) the plans being formulated by the Government to provide superfast rail facilities to cope up with the increasing passenger traffic on these sections in case the railway lines of these sections are not electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The daily average number of passengers on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delhi-Rewari sections during the year 1996-97 has shown an increase of 23% and 2.8% respectively in comparison to the last year, i.e., 1995-96.

(c) to (e) Due to constraints of resources and priority for high density routes, there is at present no proposal to electrify Delhi-Jind and Delhi-Rewari Railway Sections where traffic density is low.

(f) Introduction of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification. At present, however, there is no proposal to introduce superfast service on the sections.

Cooperation from the States for Development of Radio/Doordarshan

5251. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sought any cooperation from State Governments for the development of Radio and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the course of implementation of the AIR and Doordarshan projects, co-operation and help of the State Governments is required for providing infrastructural facilities such as land/building with proper approach road, power and water supply and security arrangements specially in the disturbed areas.

(c) As a follow up action with regard to above, State-wise/Union Territory-wise advisory committees consisting of Zonal Chief Engineers of AIR and Doordarshan and Senior Officers of the State Governments have been formed to monitor availability of infrastructural facilities. Cooperation from State Governments, by and large, has been satisfactory.

Ring Railway Line in Shoranur

5252. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay a ring rail line at Shoranur in Kerala;

(b) if so, the total funds earmarked therefor;

(c) the advantage of the ring rail line proposed to be provided in Shoranur Junction Railway Station;

(d) the time by which the work of ring rail line is likely to be started and completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) At

present there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Railways. Under the Revised Allocation of Business Rules 1986, new proposals for rail-based urban transport projects are now to be processed by Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and State Government concerned.

[*Translation*]

Derailment of Goods Train

5253. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16th January, 1997 five wagons of a goods train had overturned after derailment at Anwarganj's Juhi Yard, Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any investigation was carried out by the Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the investigation and the consequential financial loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The accident was enquired by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that it occurred due to non-observance of loading procedure and examination of the train. The financial loss suffered by the Railways due to this accident is Rs. 4.52 lakhs.

Sub Post Offices in Unnao District

5254. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sub-post offices in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is shortage of sub-post offices in Unnao district;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is shortage of employees in the post offices functioning there;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to open a sub post office at Unnao in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of Sub Post Offices in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh is 23.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal.