

- (b) the steps taken in this regard by now;
- (c) the targets and achievements during 1996-97 in this regard; and
- (d) whether all necessary clearance have been given by the Finance Ministry for such mobilisation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) During the year 1997-98, IRFC is targeted to raise Rs. 2150 crore consisting of about Rs. 1610 crore domestic borrowing and Rs. 540 crore external borrowing.

(b) IRFC have issued taxable and tax-free bonds in the domestic market. IRFC has also raised US\$ 160 million through a Floating Rate Note issue in the International market.

(c) The target of raising Rs. 1850 crore during the year 1996-97 was achieved.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Introduction of Train between Faizabad and New Delhi

3627. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a new train daily between Faizabad and New Delhi via Pratapgarh and Allahabad;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide the stoppages of trains running between Faizabad and Allahabad at each railway station;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) the efforts made by the Government to provide a stoppage of trains at Dhirganj railway station falling in between Bareilly-Lucknow-Pratapgarh-Allahabad-Mughal Sarai route;

(f) whether all the arrangements for providing passenger amenities and booking of tickets at Dhirganj railway station are being made by the contractors;

(g) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government for not awarding the contracts to contractors in future keeping in view their bad performances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a weekly express train between Muzaffarpur and Delhi via Faizabad, Lucknow and Moradabad has been introduced from 06.08.97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) Provision of stoppages of additional trains at Dhirganj Railway station has been examined but not found justified.

(f) and (g) Dhirganj is a halt station where all passenger amenities except booking of tickets and cleanliness of platforms have been provided by the Railway. Booking of tickets and cleaning of platforms are being done by the contractor.

(h) The contracts are awarded only to the contractors whose past performance is satisfactory.

Religious Serials

3628. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the religious serials approved by Doordarshan for telecast during 1997-98; and

(b) the time by which these new religious serials are likely to be telecast and the number of days in a week alongwith the duration thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No religious serial has been approved during the year 1997-98.

(b) Does not arise.

Misappropriation of Funds

3629. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was misappropriation of funds of construction of buildings and other departmental works, such as staff quarters, in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Muzaffarpur and Jamshedpur Telecom district under Bihar Telecom circle;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Migration of Rural People from Madhya Pradesh

3630. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the unemployed landless persons belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes in Madhya Pradesh have to migrate to other States due to ever-increasing unemployment problem in the State; and

(b) If so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?