

compartments therein;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government have made arrangements to ensure that food, tea, snacks and potable water are easily available to the passengers at the cheaper rates; and

(i) if so, the time by which the said arrangements are likely to be made ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The daily list in most of the Bihar bound trains was more than 300 in sleeper class on many days from 15th April to 30th June, 1997.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During Summer 1997 (April to June), a biweekly special between Delhi-Barauni, a triweekly between Delhi-Patna and a triweekly between Howrah-Jammu Tawi via Gaya-Delhi were planned and run. During the peak, i.e. 9th to 22nd May'97, 12 additional pairs of specials were run between Delhi-Barauni to clear the extra rush.

(d) to (g) It is proposed to provide the following additional facilities serving people of Bihar from August, 1997 :-

(i) Delhi-Hatia Swarna Jayanti Express (biweekly predominantly having 2nd class accommodation.

(ii) Surat-Patna Express (weekly).

(iii) Delhi-Muzaffarpur Express (weekly).

(iv) Tata-Katihar Link Express.

(h) Yes, Sir. Satisfactory catering services are provided to travelling passengers at reasonable rates. Drinking water is also available at all the stations.

(i) Does not arise.

Recovery of Loan from SEBs

416. SHRI RAVINDER KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank has warned the National Thermal Power Corporation that if it did not give a firm assurance regarding realisation of its outstanding amount from State Electricity Boards, the loans likely to be sanctioned to it in future would be stopped;

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

(c) the details of amount outstanding against various State Electricity Boards upto June, 1997; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for realising this outstanding amount so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The World Bank has indicated to NTPC that it may have to resort to suspension of the existing loans and defer new loans to NTPC in case urgent remedial action is not taken by it to improve the position of receivables. Government of India has been assisting NTPC to reduce its receivables to the levels as per the covenants entered by it with the World Bank

(c) The details of amount outstanding against various SEBs as on 30.6.1997 are given in the Annexure.

(d) Reducing the quantum of outstanding dues is being consistently followed up by NTPC with the defaulting States/SEBs. In case of large defaulters, the power supply is also sometimes regulated. The Central Government has also decided in October, 1996 that supply of power, henceforthwith, should only be against advance payments or opening of irrevocable Letters of Credit. Government of India has also been facilitating NTPC to recover its dues from States through adjustments from devolutions due from the Centre to the States.

Statement

NTPC's outstanding dues against State Electricity Boards and other beneficiaries as on 30.6.1997

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/ Organisations	Outstanding dues	Sur-charge billed	Total Outstanding
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh SEB	84450	32943	117393
Rajasthan SEB	-2945	15714	12769
Delhi Vidyut Board	81538	10450	91988
Punjab SEB	1164	322	1486
Haryana SEB	5752	12739	18491

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh SEB	1503	941	2444
Jammu & Kashmir	24879	6386	31265
UT Chandigarh	76	0	76
POWERGRID (NR&NCR)	307	23	330
Madhya Pradesh SEB	16219	22385	38604
Maharashtra SEB	11135	11442	22577
Gujarat	9674	8427	18101
Goa	417	60	477
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-77	0	-77
Daman & Diu	211	77	288
POWERGRID (WR)	174	60	234
Andhra Pradesh SEB	11823	5211	17034
Karnataka EB	5288	3384	8672
Tamil Nadu EB	2952	5661	8613
Kerala SEB	1314	2485	3799
Goa	216	67	283
Pondicherry	-182	2	-180
West Bengal SEB	25939	5786	31725
Bihar SEB	51852	24849	76701
GRIDCO (Orissa)	17920	0	17920
DV	11129	9034	20163
.kim	506	55	561
Assam	3	0	3
Total	363237	178503	541740

Abbreviations :

SEBs : State Electricity Boards

GRIDCO : Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd.

[English]

Rural Employment through Wastelands Development

417. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote rural employment through wastelands development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of jobs generated/proposed to be generated thereunder and the rural areas selected therefor; and

(d) the budget allocation earmarked for implementation of these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Wastelands Development in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is implementing Wastelands Development Scheme titled "Integrated Wastelands Development Project" (IWDP) Scheme. Under this scheme, various land based activities are carried out such as afforestation, silvi-pasture development, pasture development, horticulture, distribution of seedlings, distribution of fuel-wood saving devices, in situ soil and moisture conservation etc., These activities generate rural employment opportunities.

(c) After creation of the Department of Wastelands Development in July, 1992, under IWDP Scheme, 160 projects have been sanctioned in 130 districts in the country with a project period ranging from 3-5 years at a total cost of Rs. 339.73 crores so far for the development of 6.42 lakh ha. of wastelands. It is estimated that 239.84 crores mandays will be generated.

(d) The Budget estimates of Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) scheme for 1997-98 is Rs. 74.50 crores.

Cancellation of Trains

418. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2940 dated December, 12, 1996 regarding cancellation of trains and state :

(a) whether the required information has since been collected; and

(b) if not, the specific reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The assurance for the Unstarred Question No. 2940 on 12.12.1996 regarding cancellation of trains has already been fulfilled on 5.5.1997.