

[Translation]

Harassment of a Woman

4048. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an enquiry into the Usha episode, an inmate of Nari Niketan has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Union Government have received suggestions/requests from some social organisations/Members of Parliament to conduct an C.B.I. enquiry into the matter;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct an C.B.I. enquiry into the matter; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The investigation of the case in question is still in progress. The blood samples of Smt. Usha, her son and two suspected persons have been sent for DNA test. Efforts are being made to complete the investigation expeditiously

(d) to (f) There were suggestions from certain quarters that the case be assigned to the CBI for investigation. There is, however, no such proposal under the consideration of the Government at present. The Delhi Police is capable of handling such cases.

Rail Transport

4049. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cement, food grains and fertilizers are being transported in open wagons by the railways at various places in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of these goods transported, separately during the last year and the income earned as a result thereof;

(c) whether the railways have to bear financial loss due to the theft of the said goods while transporting them in the open wagons;

(d) if so, the amount of claims made for the loss of each item during the last three years; and

(e) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some quantity of cement, food grains and fertilizers is transported in open wagons to various places.

(b) No separate statistics of open wagons is maintained. A statement showing the commodity-wise loading and earnings (on originating basis) for the last two years is given below

Commodity	Loading (in million tonnes)		Earnings (Rs. in crores)	
	1994-95	1995-96	1994-95	1995-96
Cement	31.45	31.80	1119.97	1211.68
Foodgrains	20.72	25.81	854.90	1085.76
Fertilisers	21.47	23.24	671.70	725.32

(c) and (d). No separate statistics on compensation claims paid by the Railways on theft of commodities is maintained. However, compensation claims paid for loss/theft of cement, food grains and fertilizers booked for carriage by the Railways during the last three years is as under :

Commodity	Year	Amount Paid (Rs. in lacs)	
	1	2	3
Cement	1993-94	31.28	
	1994-95	46.29	
	1995-96	39.48	
Chemical and Pulses	1993-94	99.01	
	1994-95	149.22	
	1995-96	186.62	
Chemical manures	1993-94	1.72	
	1994-95	13.20	
	1995-96	27.88	

(e) More wagons are being procured on yearly basis. The Railways offer 5% rebate for transportation of the commodities in open wagons. Parties utilizing the open wagons cover it with Tarpauline and tie it up with ropes.

[English]

New Railway Line

4050. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new railway line under construction between Jogighopa and Guwahati would be completed in 1996-97, as was assured in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 4042 answered on August 23, 1994 in the Lok Sabha;

(b) if so, the time by which its construction is likely to be completed and the same is to become operational;

(c) whether the work is progressing as per the schedule;

and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. There has been some delay due to unforeseen geological problems in the foundation of Piers 17 and 18 of the Brahmaputra bridge which has delayed the completion of this project. The Railways also not been able to meet the full requirement of funds for this work.

The Jogighopa bridge is now expected to be completed by March 1997 along with Jogighopa-Goalpara section. The line for Goalpara to Guwahati is now targeted for completion in 1997-98.

[Translation]

Involvement of Multinational Companies

4051. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to ban the entrance of multinational companies in the field of agricultural products so that the interest of the farmers is safeguarded;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the government at the moment to ban the entry of the multinational companies in the field of agricultural products.

[English]

IPS Officers Arrested

4052. SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of IPS officers arrested/suspended during each of the last three years for the corrupt practices, State-wise; and

(b) the steps/precautions taken by the Union Government to put more vigilance on the working of these officers to root out the corruption?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

Contract Catering Employees

4053. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from contract catering employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The General Secretary, Catering Contract Workers Union, Kerala, has submitted a memorandum to the Minister for Railways in regard to service conditions of the workers employed by catering contractors at Railway stations.

(c) The memorandum which was received in the third week of August, 1996 is being examined.

Task force to Check Pollution

4054. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has reiterated the need of setting up of a coordinated task force to check pollution and depletion of natural resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the assistance from voluntary organizations, State Pollution Control Boards and financial institutions has also been sought in this regard.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to set up the proposed task force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has reiterated the need for setting up a Task Force to check pollution in the country during a Conference of Chairmen and Member Secretaries of Pollution Control Boards/Committees held at Delhi in February 1996.

(c) and (d). CPCB has set up a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Cell to involve the people and NGOs for abatement of pollution. The State Pollution Control Boards have also been advised to set up similar cells in their respective States. The initiatives taken to encourage public participation to control pollution include the following :

— A Pollution Awareness and Assistance Centre has been set up for priority participatory programmes on prevention and control of pollution;