

(b) During PM's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt in October '95, an Agreement to combat all forms of criminal acts particularly those relating to terrorists, transnational and organized crime was signed. This agreement is aimed to achieve better coordination and cooperation between the two countries so as to effectively deal with the menace of terrorism and organized crime.

The agreement aims at exchange of information about activities and crimes of terrorist groups, their membership, leadership, locations and means of finance and arms they use. Also, it is proposed to exchange information on various methods of anti-terrorist organizations and information pertaining to scientific and technological experience in the field of protection and security of sea, air and rail transportation. In addition, both countries shall be in position to exchange information relating to modern methods and techniques about transnational organized crime combating agencies. The data regarding joint measures to ensure combating of crimes and offences such as money smuggling, smuggling of antiques and art-objects and illegal marketing of vehicles shall be also exchanged.

Travelling Concessions for Senior Citizens

4079 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to bring down the cut off age for eligibility of senior citizens for travelling in trains to sixty years,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Due to increasing cost of operations and resource constraints, Railways do not propose to extend the scope of concessions, by bringing down the cut off age from 65 years to 60 years.

Railway Recruitment Board

4080 SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Recruitment Board, Patna had invited applications for the posts of Commercial Clerks, Office Clerks, Ticket Collectors etc., vide advertisement number RRB-PAT-2-90-91;

(b) whether majority of the selected candidates have not been issued joining letters since the year 1992;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to issue joining letters to the selected candidates?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Due to shrinkage of work in various railway units, surrender of posts and a number of staff being rendered surplus, involving their re-deployment in alternative categories including those for which the selection was held. In view of this it is not possible to fix a target date for issue of offers of appointment.

Computerized Close Circuits

4081 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to instal computerized close circuits at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose of installing these computerized close circuits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways are contemplating the proposal to instal computerized close circuit TVs at Railway Stations, Yards, Good-Sheds, Parcel Offices and Workshops which are vulnerable to crimes with a view to preventing pilferage of parcels and goods booked by Rail Users as well as other Railway property. The feasibility of the proposal is under examination keeping in view the financial implications and the effectiveness of the system.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Local Trains

4082 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the stoppage of local trains at Kochagarah Station (between Telo and Chandrapura) of the Eastern Railway has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving the people of this area of the rail service;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore the stoppage of local trains at the said station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Kochagarah Station was closed to traffic from 28.01.1970 due to meagre traffic offering

(c) and (d) No such proposal at present

[English]

Stop Line Operation

4083 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a campaign 'operation stop line' was launched by the Traffic Police in the capital recently,

(b) if so, the number of vehicles found violating the stop line at various points in the capital,

(c) the action taken against the erring drivers of the vehicles, and

(d) the assessment of the Government about the impact of the campaign on the general traffic?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) (a) Yes, Sir. The campaign was launched with effect from 1.4.1996

(b) 13056 vehicles were found violating the stop line during the period 1.4.1996 to 22.8.1996

(c) The erring drivers have been prosecuted under rule 113(1)/177 of the Delhi Motor Vehicle Rules.

(d) The drive was not only punitive but also educative. Such drives are useful for promoting better traffic sense among the road users.

Indian Supply and Inspection Cadre Services

4084 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the objective for which Indian Supply and Inspection Cadre services have been created in Railways,

(b) whether services of the officers of the said cadre are not being utilized by the Railways,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor,

(d) whether these services were created to man the contract management and quality control function and if so, the reasons for entrusting the officers of other cadre services to perform same duties in the Ministry,

(e) whether any purchase policy has been formed by the Ministry of Railways,

(f) if so, the manner in which Government's interest is safeguarded in case firms fail to perform contract in the absence of purchase policy guidelines,

(g) whether there is any case in which Railways have been able to recover risk purchase loss from the defaulter firm; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Sir, such a Cadre does not exist.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The mechanisms through which Government's interest is safeguarded in case the firm fails to perform contractual obligation, are as follows

(i) Imposition of penal clauses, for example, Liquidated damages, Denial Clauses.

(ii) Recovery of financial loss due to Risk Purchase action

(iii) Forfeiture of Security Deposit/Bank Guarantee

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Daily Train from Ranchi to Calcutta

4085 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to run daily train from Ranchi to Calcutta which at present runs thrice-a-week, and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 8015/8016 Hatia/Ranchi-Howrah Express already runs as a daily service.

(b) Does not arise

Funds for National Bureau Genetic Centres

4086 SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the allocation made by the Union Government to the various States during the last year for setting up of Collection Centres/Regional Centres of the various National Bureaus of ICAR, State-wise,

(b) whether the amount provided to Uttar Pradesh for the purpose has been utilized,

(c) if not, the reasons therefor,

(d) whether the Government further propose to provide the funds to U.P. for the purpose; and