

Operational Cost of Railway

2355. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branch lines functioning at present;

(b) the total annual income earned by the railway therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the operational cost of railways;

(d) if so, the percentage of total earnings of railways being spent under the above said head;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action to reduce the expenditure under this head during last few years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) It is presumed that reference is to Uneconomic Branch Lines. During 1996-97, there were 120 such lines.

(b) The total earnings of the above lines during 1996-97 were Rs. 203.78 Crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The working expenses of these uneconomic branch lines (i.e. Rs. 447.45 crore) were 219.57% of their earnings.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The following measures are being taken to minimise/reduce the expenditure on uneconomic branch lines:-

- (i) Introduction of 'One Engine only' system;
- (ii) Discontinuing night running of trains, if any;
- (iii) Suspension of poorly patronised trains;
- (iv) Rescheduling of time table of passengers trains;
- (v) Replacement of Passenger/Goods trains by mixed trains;

(vi) Converting flag stations into Contractor operated halt stations;

(vii) Closure of stations for goods/parcel traffic wherever warranted;

(viii) Intensified ticket checking;

(ix) Economy in staff;

(x) Reduction in stock wherever feasible.

[English]

Encroachment in Dwarka and Bindapur Areas

2356. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the encroachment on D.D.A. land in Dwarka and Bindapur areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land measuring about 48 acre in the area is under encroachment.

(c) DDA has reported that a number of programmes were fixed to remove the encroachments. However, these could not be executed due to large number of residential houses and also because of proximity to the village abadi. At present the subject matter of regularisation of unauthorised colonies is under consideration of Govt. However, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 4771/93 has restrained the respondents, including Union of India, from regularising any unauthorised colony in Delhi. The matter is still subjudice.

Deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from List of Minerals

2357. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented for the deletion of Limestone and Bauxite