Late Running of Trains Between New Delhi-Mumbai

1352. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains between New Delhi and Mumbai are running late continuously for the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure running of the trains on scheduled time?

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) to (c) No, Sir. Railways try to run trains punctually. However, the trains do run late sometimes due to alarm chainpulling, miscreants activities, agitation/bandh, accidents, bad weather (fog/floods) etc., equipment and human failures. Constant chasing and monitoring is done by both Divisional and Zonal Railway Headquarters. Meetings are held daily and remedial measures taken to improve punctual running of trains.

Loss of Revenue due to Strike of ATCs

1353. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of revenue incurred by Indian Airlines due to Air Traffic Controllers strike; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem urgently?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Indian Airlines/Alliance Air incurred a loss of about Rs. 1.83 crores due to Air Traffic Controllers agitation during 1st February, 1999 to 19th February, 1999.

(b) A contingency plan was prepared by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). A notification under ESMA (Essential Services Maintenance Act) has been issued by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on 15.2.1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. Air Traffic Controllers Guild has given an assurance to Delhi High Court on 19.2.1999 that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers.

Encroachment of Railway Land

1354. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a big chunk of land adjoining Shivaji
Bridge Railway Station in New Delhi, owned by Railways,
is under encroachment and illegal occupation by a private party for the last many years;

(b) whether due to increase in passenger traffic in suburban sector, the Shivaji Bridge Station is having acute shortage of space for providing basic passenger amenities thereby causing untold problems to daily commuters;

(c) If so, the steps taken by Railway authorities to evict the encroachers and regain possession of land;

(d) whether there is any court cases pending in this regard; and

(e) 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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Railway had filed cases in the Court of Estate Officer whose orders for eviction have been challenged in the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi and the matter is sub-judice.

(e) The details are given as under.

- (i) Suit No. 1756/84 in High Court, Delhi-Union of India V/s M/s Oriental Building and Furnishing Company (P) Ltd.
- (ii) Suit No. 4475/92 in the Court of Additional district Judge, Delhi-Union of India V/s M/s Oriental Building and Furnishing Company (P) Ltd.
- Suit No. CM(M) 130/90, in High Court, Delhi-Oriental Building & Furnishing Company (P) Ltd. V/s Union of India.

Sainik Schools

1355. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Sainik Schools as on date with latest intake of each of them, State/Union Territorywise;