

(a) whether a number of general coaches are being reduced in the Superfast and Express trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that hundreds of passengers are not able to get reservation in Bihar bound trains from Delhi everyday; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation permanently?

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) No. Sir.

(b) Some passengers do remain on waiting list in Bihar bound trains from Delhi.

(c) Besides introducing a bi-weekly train between Delhi and Muzaffarpur in the current year, the loads of existing trains are also being augmented depending upon the availability of coaches, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

[Translation]

Training of Railway officers Abroad

5256. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any provision for training/studies abroad for the officers working in Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the criteria for selection;

(c) the number of doctors sent to Australia from the Department of Medicines, Western Railways in April 1996, for attending 'Hospital Business Management' course;

(d) whether the officers after their training are bound to work at North East Frontier Railway;

(e) if so, the period for which they have to work there;

(f) whether this rule is strictly complied with; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suitable officers who fulfil the condition laid down by donor agencies or are involved in the project/machinery/equipment related activities are nominated bases on their suitability-cum-seniority and weightage is given to the performance of officers during last five years.

(c) Two;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Consultative Committees

5257. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue various consultative and other committees constituted by Railways; and

(b) if so, the details of such committees proposed for discontinuance and the reasons therefor?

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) The National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCC) & Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) were dissolved w.e.f. 2.4.1998/ Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees have been re-constituted for a two year term w.e.f. 1.7.1998. National Railway Users' Consultative Council will be reconstituted shortly after these two other committees become functional.

Lime Stone Mining

5258. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Hindu" dated May 11, 1998 under the caption, "Lime Stone Mining Contractors defying SC Order";

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(c) the details of stern action proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Railway Sports Promotion Board

5259. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: