

(b) References have been received from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament demanding conversion of steam loco shed at Bitragunta into either an electric loco shed or a Carriage and Wagon Workshop.

In view of the adequate electric loco, carriage and wagon maintenance facilities available in the existing Railway electric loco sheds and workshops in the region to meet the Railways requirement, there is no Plan to convert the steam loco shed at Bitragunta.

Delay in Printing of Postal Stationery

5283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inordinate delay is reported to have been noticed in printing of Money Order forms, A.D. Cards etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the orders placed and pending with the Directorate of Printing from Deptt. of Posts at the end of each of the last three financial years; and

(d) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) There is some delay in printing of Money Order forms, A.D. Cards etc.

(b) The reasons for delay are as follows:-

(i) Annual production capacity of the Presses is getting reduced every year due to natural wear and tear.

(ii) Erratic supply of electricity/load shedding/low voltage results idling of machines.

(iii) The Presses also undertake printing jobs of other Ministeries/Departments on priority basis. Due to change in priority of the printing jobs, all works cannot be completed strictly on first come first served basis.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) The Managers of the Government of India Presses have been directed to accord priority to these jobs of the Department of posts in consultation with the Superintendents of the Postal Depots who have placed the indents.

Statement

The Details of orders placed and pending with the Directorate of Printing from Department of Posts at the end of each of the last Three financial Years.

	31.3.96		31.3.97		31.3.98	
	Orders placed	Pending	Order placed	pending	Order placed	pending
Money Order Forms (MO-8)	6,07,720	Nil	20,46,000	19,25,000	15,59,550	6,43,920
A.D.Cards (RP-54)	Nil	Nil	50,00,000	29,82,500	Nil	Nil

Diversion of Routes

5284. SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have diverted the routes of some trains recently particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether any alternative arrangements have been made for the affected passengers; and

(d) if not, the reason 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) 6635/6636 Kurla-Mangalore/Cochin Netravati Express diverted to run via Konkan Railway between Kurla-Ernakulam, 2431/2432 Trivandrum Rajdhani Express diverted to run via Konkan Railway and 7685/7686 Kacheguda-Bangalore Express diverted to run via Mehaboob nagar-Dronachellam to reduce the distance and journey time.

(c) and (d) To the extent feasible alternative arrangements have been made for the affected passengers by reallocating quotas by other trains for Delhi and Mumbai.

Railway Protection Force

5285. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: