

*[Translation]***Shortage of Funds**

1959. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
 SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the current year's target for earnings could fall short by several crores;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any steps are being worked out by the Railways in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether due to this shortage, modernisation and development plans are likely to be affected; and
- (f) if so, the extent to which the new expansion proposals are to be shelved?

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) Freight traffic to end of October, 1998 is short of target by 16.34 million tonnes; as a result the goods earnings are also down by Rs. 852 crores. This shortfall is mainly seen in the core sector areas of Coal, Steel, Cement, Foodgrains and Fertilizers. There is, however, some buoyancy in passenger traffic and this has to a small extent offset the shortfall in freight earnings.

(c) and (d) Zonal railways have been directed to make special efforts to capture additional freight traffic in core sectors as also in other areas so as to make good the shortfall to the extent possible. They have also been directed to enhance passenger earnings, intensify ticket checking, pursue recovery of outstanding dues and also control expenditure.

(e) and (f) Some reduction in outlays on Plan schemes appears inevitable due to shortfall in earnings. However, the attempt will be to adequately fund safety related and other urgent and important works.

*[English]***Striking Power of IAF**

1960. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Air Force ranked the fourth largest air force in the world but its striking power has been declining in comparison to China and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The ranking is based on the strength of the aircraft an Air Force holds, which, however, does not reflect the striking power of that Air Force. The striking power of IAF has not been declining, however, Air Forces of China and Pakistan have undertaken rapid modernisation.

(c) In order to maintain and enhance the air strike capability of the IAF a number of steps have been taken to modernise/strengthen the IAF in view of the current, as well as, futuristic threat perceptions. These steps include mid life upgradation of some of the existing aircraft/weapon systems, acquisition of additional air defence/air superiority aircraft and induction of multi-role state of the art aircraft. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the electronic warfare armour of the IAF, as well as for provision of precision guided munitions to enhance accuracy and lethality of its strike power. Combat aircraft and attack helicopters in the IAF inventory are also being equipped with night attack capability to enable them to operate in both day and night conditions.

Drinking Water Supply and Sewerage Projects

1961. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Government of Assam for obtaining foreign or HUDCO assistance for drinking water supply and sewerage project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; district-wise; and
- (c) the amount earmarked for the propose and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) The Government of Assam had