

[Translation]

Interactive Voice Response System

1945. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of railway stations have been provided with the facility of Interactive Voice Response System in the country, zone/State-wise; and

(b) the number of railway stations proposed to be covered under the new norms of IVRS in the country, zone/State-wise?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Petition from Discharged Armymen

1946. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any petitions from the discharged Armymen for compensation in the light of the judgement of Kerala High Court directing the Government to take decision in the matter; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the petitions have been disposed of and replies have been sent to the petitioners. None of the petitioners in question was found eligible for any compensation.

Development of Jharsuguda Air Strips

1947. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have got the proposal for development of Jharsuguda Air Strips in Western Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Employment in Railway Coach Factory, Bhopal

1948. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the villagers whose land was acquired for setting up of a Railway Coach Factory in Bhopal were given an assurance that at least one person of their family would be given employment in the Coach Factory;

(b) if so, the number of applications received from villagers in this regard and the number of persons appointed so far;

(c) the number of existing posts in the said Railway Coach Factory and the number out of them which could be offered to the local villagers; and

(d) the time by which remaining applicants are likely to be given employment?

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) The extant instructions on the Railways provide for consideration for preferential employment of one member each of the families whose land has been acquired by the Railways for Railway Projects. Such dispensation is, however, restricted to the "first recruitment or the recruitments made during the first two years after acquisition of land", whichever is later. The preferential employment of land losers in the case of Coach Repair Workshop, Bhopal, is also governed by the said instructions.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Withdrawal of Case

1949. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any action to withdraw the case which was recorded during strike for the stoppage of 1017 and 1018 trains in Ranibennur (SR) (KARNATAKA);

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) In this regard, a proposal from Shri T.D. Battal, President, Merchants, Association, Ranibennur and another from Shri B.M. Mansinkai, Hon'ble Member of Parliament have been received but the proposal to withdraw the case has not been acceded to as the case was registered and prosecuted by the Government Railway Police, which functions under the State Government of Karnataka. As per procedure, the proposal for withdrawal of such cases has to be processed only by the State Government concerned who, while processing it, will also obtain concurrence of the Ministry of Railways through Ministry of Home Affairs.

Guidelines for Allotment of DDA Flats

1950. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any guideline has been prescribed for the allotment of houses/plots by Delhi Development Authority (DDA);
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether DDA proposes to announce any new scheme for allotment of houses/plots in Delhi; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. DDA has reported that the allotment of flats is governed by rules of the DDA (Mangement and Disposal of Housing Estates) Regulations -1968. Allotment of plots is made in accordance with the DDA (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rule-1981.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to announce any new scheme.

Collectors in States

1951. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the poverty alleviation programmes in some of the districts have not been undertaken due to the vacant posts of collectors;

(b) if so, the names of the districts, state-wise where posts of collectors are lying vacant at present;

(c) whether the amount allocated under the poverty alleviation programmes are being misappropriated;

(d) if so, the number of such cases have come to the notice of Union/State Governments during the last three years;

(e) the number of people died due to poverty and starvation in the country during 1998; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAUDA PATIL) : (a) No such instances have been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) One case of misappropriation of funds and a few cases of alleged slippages in the implementation of the Employment Assurance (EAS) have been brought to the notice of the Union Government. In addition three complaints were received from the members of Parliament/former Members of Parliament regarding irregularities in implementation/non utilisation/misappropriation of funds under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS).

(e) Poverty and starvation have not been recognised as causes of death and therefore no data are available.

(f) The Government is implementing various schemes throughout the country in rural areas viz. (i) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), (ii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), (iii) Million Wells Scheme (MWS), (iv) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (v) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), (vi) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), (vii) Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural artisans (SITRA) for employment generation and poverty eradication. These schemes provide wage employment and self employment to the people living below the poverty line in rural areas of the country.

Guidelines for Reducing Air Fares

1952. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to formulate detailed guidelines to keep a check on fare wars; and

(b) if so, be details thereof?