

Fire Prevention Devices in Trains

8804. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide fire prevention devices in trains considering the recent train tragedy in Arrah in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when these devices are likely to be provided in all the trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Instructions have been issued to ensure appropriate fire fighting equipment in passenger trains in the guard's brake vans, diesel/electric locos, pantry cars and air-conditioned coaches and to give suitable training to the train accompanying staff in the use of fire fighting equipments. In addition, railways are conducting intensive drives in affected areas to check and prevent carriage of inflammable and dangerous goods in passenger compartments and luggage vans. Wide publicity is also being given to create public awareness about fire hazards and to seek public cooperation in fire prevention.

Separate Zone for South

8805. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to create a separate Zone for South;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when this Zone will be created?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No. Sir

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Book Stall Contracts at Palwal, Ballabgarh, Kosikalan and Faridabad

8806. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Railway has recently invited applications for award of contract for Book-stalls at Palwal, Ballabgarh, Kosikalan and Faridabad Town stations;

(b) the number of stalls proposed to be allotted; and

(c) the time by which these contracts would be awarded as per rules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Applications were invited for allotment of Book stall contracts at Palwal, Ballabgarh and Kosikalan Stations only.

(b) Three.

(c) The contracts have been allotted and would be operative from 4.6.1990.

Alleged Fraud in Purchase of Electrical Equipments in Eastern Railway

8807. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI L. K. ADVANI:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has unearthed a massive fraud in the purchase of electrical equipment by the Eastern Railway in Bihar involving heavy excess payments to some private parties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the inquiry and the further action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). The Central Bureau of Investigation, have recently registered 5 cases on 28.3.1990 against 4 Railway Officials and 12 private firms, for alleged procurement of electrical equipments at high rates, and making procurement in excess of actual requirements, resulting in approximate loss of Rs. 57.5 lakhs to the Railways.

(c) The outcome will be known after the completion of investigation by the CBI and the receipt of investigation report from them. Further action can be taken only thereafter.

Cess on coal in Bihar

8808. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries are collecting coal cess on sale of coal but are not paying the cess amount to Government of Bihar and thereby causing a financial crisis in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Details of royalty and cess due to Bihar Government on coal sale from Eastern Coalfields Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Central Coalfields Limited during the year 1988-89 and 1989-90, amount paid and the balance as on 31.3.90 are given below:-