

[English]

Freight Computerisation Technology

*154. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have shown preference for a two decade old freight computerisation technology ; and

(b) the reasons for preferring such an old technology which will have to be replaced by a more sophisticated system within a few years of its installation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Indian Railways have decided to adopt the Traffic Reporting and Control System (TRACS) of Canadian National Railroads (CN) as the basis for the Central Segment of their Freight Operations Information and Control System and modify the same suitably with the consultancy assistance of CANAC—the Consultancy Wing of CN to suit the needs and conditions of Indian Railways. This decision was taken after due consideration of all technical aspects and a detailed evaluation of computer systems developed on selected advanced Railways, by a joint team of Railways, Departments of Electronics and Atomic Energy.

The TRACS system is based on the Total Operations Processing System (TOPS), developed by Southern Pacific Railroads of USA in 1968. However, over the years, the system has been continuously modified and updated with the advancement of technology and the version of TRACS that will be obtained by IR will have the necessary updates to operate on contemporaneous hardware and the latest operating system software.

The TOPS system is basically a freight movement control system which contains as its core an intricate logic for analysing freight information in order to maintain effective monitoring of Railway operations, present an upto date picture of such operations to the management and to help in optimising decisions. This core software of

TOPS/TRACS is its strong point and in it lies its provenness. The system has worked effectively on a number of Railways and has proven adaptability. As the basic principle of freight applications is the same on all Railways and has not changed over the years, the effectiveness of the core software which contains the intrinsic logic of the TOPS system remains unchanged. The TRACS system being obtained from CN will therefore, be an efficient and a sophisticated system in its own merit. As such, there would be no need to replace this system by a more sophisticated system within a few years of its installation.

Air Pollution due to Talcher Power Plant

*155. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news items under the caption "Gases from Talcher plant cause cancer, bronchitis" appearing in the 'Patriot' dated 12 June, 1985 ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pollution resulted from the unsatisfactory performance of the dust collecting equipment of 62.5 MW units. A Renovation and Modernisation Scheme for the Talcher Thermal Station has been formulated. With the implementation of this Scheme the existing dust collecting equipment will be replaced by an efficient electro-static precipitator.

[Translation]

Pollution in Yamuna due to Dirty Water of Nazafgarh Nallah

*156. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Najafgarh drain bund for protecting the Yamuna water from pollution has caved in ;