

(a) whether a plan has been drawn up to overhaul Delhi Main Railway Station area; if so, the details thereof including the outlines of the proposed structural changes to decongest the area, financial implication and time scheduled for its implementation;

(b) the results of the study made, if any, about the proposed second entry from Kashmere Gate side to the Main Station; and

(c) whether the recommendations of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission in regard to this plan to make it functional and also to preserve the character of this 'prominent architectural landmark of a bygone era' have been kept in view in finalising the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). A study had indicated that due to heavily built up area on Kashmere Gate end of Delhi Main Station, it was not feasible to provide second entry to Delhi Main station from Kashmere Gate side.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

DR B L. SHAILESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied to my question like a computer issuing a railway ticket. My question was quite important, but he has disposed it of in just two lines. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any provision to somehow increase the circulation area of Delhi Main Railway Station? Sir, lakhs of people catch trains from and get down at Delhi Main Railway Station daily and sometimes even D T C. buses enter the premises thereby making the passengers to wait for half an hour or even an hour to get out of the station. Vehicles like taxi, scooter, etc. are also not available there. Sometimes, even the luggage is stolen with the connivance of some policemen and unauthorised coolies. All those things cause indescribable inconvenience to the passengers. In view of all this, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there is any pro-

posal for extension of Delhi Main Railway Station; if so, whether Government are going to take some steps in this regard?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: A scheme with an outlay of Rs. 7.13 crores has been prepared for the modernisation, beautification and extension of Delhi Main Railway Station. An amount of Rs. of 2 crores 84 lakhs has already been out of it during the year 1986-87. Rs. 2 crores 60 lakhs will be spent during the current year and the scheme is expected to be completed during the next financial year.

DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister might be aware that the building in which the retiring room is located at Delhi Main Railway Station is very old and its upper floor is in a very bad condition. The same is also true of metre gauge booking offices because their number is not adequate. The parcel office is also in the same condition. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to undertake some modernisation?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, all these things are being given attention.

[*English*]

Late Running of Superfast Trains

*522. DR. A. K. PATEL†:
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the frequency of late coming of superfast trains at their terminals in the month of January last;

(b) how does it compare with their punctuality records in January, 1986; and

(c) the effective measures taken in this period to upgrade the punctuality of superfast and other express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 22.8% Superfast trains arrived late at their terminals during January, 1987.

(b) 25.5% Superfast trains arrived late at their terminals in January, 1986. Thus, comparatively, there was improvement in the performance in January, 1986 as compared to January, 1986.

(c) A close watch is kept on the running of Superfast and other Express trains and their punctuality is monitored round the clock.

DR. A.K. PATEL : Sir, in the month of January, 1987, 22.8 per cent super-fast trains arrived late. In the month of January, 1986, 25.5 per cent trains arrived late. These super-fast trains are now super-slow trains. What are the common causes for these late arrivals and what steps you are going to take for this ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, what must be kept in mind is the number of super-fast trains. In spite of constraints of track capacity, due to the pressure of demand and due to the justified requirements of various areas, the number has been considerably increased.

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER : What do you think, can't such a thing happen if ladies are sitting ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, ladies bother me too much. My fate is that in Rajya Sabha as well as in this House, I have to share seats with them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : You can ask him, Sir, how well we work.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Sir, he is feeling left out,

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I certify that the fault lies there.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The principal reasons for the delay in 22% of the super-fast trains, apart from the general reasons like accidents or other problems, are that this year we have had a lot of problems due to fog. We have had 427 trains losing time due to fog, as opposed to 236 last year. Thanks to many of our friends in certain States, we have lost time on 88 trains, as opposed to 32, due to agitations. Rains and breaches have made 89 trains lose time, as against 35 the year previously. Due to single locos being used on double-headed trains due to operational reasons that arose a couple of months ago, 45 trains have had to lose time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How many trains due to inefficiency of the Janata regime ?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I feel that the present system of computation of the statistics on the punctuality of trains is rather inaccurate and somewhat deceptive. The hon. Minister is only taking into consideration the number of trains as a percentage of the total number of trains which arrived late at the destination. He is not taking into account either the total journey time of the particular train, or the degree of time by which it arrives late. I would, therefore, like to know whether the hon. Minister would like to go deeper into the question of unpunctuality, and gives us a better picture of the actual state of affairs which is hidden under present statistics.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The hon. Member's suggestion has been certainly noted. It would require much more detailed working; and I would certainly examine the possibility of working this into a computer software programme; and if there are lapses on this account too, they could be highlighted and looked into.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : It is poor consolation, when the hon. Minister informs the House that there is slight improvement in the punctuality of our super-fast trains,

compared in the last 2 or 3 months. The A.P. Express, a super-fast train has been running late by about 2 to 3 hours daily, both ways. Will the hon. Minister enquire into the reasons for this delay? It may be more beneficial to go into the reasons for the delay in each super-fast train.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We are constantly monitoring the chronic late runners; and I could not catch the name of the particular name which the hon. Member mentioned.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : It is the A.P. Express.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will also be looking into this. There are these chronic bad runners, which are being looked into. The A.P. Express is also one such train.

Allocation of Funds for Establishment of Rural Sports Centres

*523 **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the States which have been allocated funds for the establishment of rural Sports Centres;

(b) the Central assistance given to the States so far for this purpose; and

(c) the number of students from Maharashtra, who have been granted scholarships under the 'Sports talent scholarship' scheme during 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b). On the basis of proposals received, financial assistance of Rs. 15.19 lakhs has been rendered to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh for establishment and maintenance of Rural Sports Centres during the year 1986-87,

(c) During 1986-87, a total of 384 students from Maharashtra have been granted scholarships under the Sports Talent Scholarship Schemes.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : The Government is giving much importance to rural sports centres. In view of the fact that some of the applications of the rural sports centres sent to the Government of India through the State Governments are not forwarded in time, or are not forwarded at all—with the result that those sports centres are deprived of Central Government grants—if the rural sports centres send their applications to the government being recommended by the Members of Parliament—of course, a copy is being submitted to the State Government—will the government consider those applications and given grant to them?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The sports centre scheme is operated on a 50 : 50 sharing basis. Therefore, when we receive applications, any number of centres from the State can be funded by us provided the State also makes a commitment that they will put in 50 per cent of the grant. The suggestion made by the MP has been discussed with the State Government and they are not prepared to allow us to decentralise it to the extent of directly funding the district.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I have not asked for decentralisation. I am asking for consideration of the application. It may so happen that the State Government never considers some applications in time. When such applications are being received by the Centre, will they forward them to the States for due consideration? What amount has been given to the State of Orissa, for how many centres and how many students have been given scholarship in 1986-87 under the sports talent scholarship scheme?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : As far as Orissa is concerned, we have given them Rs. 1,22,860 for 269 rural centres. As I said that this is only 50 per cent; the other 50 per cent is put by the State. The suggestion made by the hon. member that we should directly fund is something which we are prepared to take it up with the State Government again, because it would also make it easier for us. I have got the total