

Railway Division for Orissa

*719. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal from the Government of Orissa for creating a separate Railway Division for Western Orissa;

(b) if so, when that proposal had come from Orissa; and

(c) the progress made so far in implementing such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). A proposal was received from the Chief Minister of Orissa in December, 1980 regarding the setting up of a new Railway Division in Orissa. Since there were numerous similar demands for setting in new Divisional Offices and Zonal Headquarters of Railways in other States as well, all such demands have been referred to the Railway Reforms Committee set up in implementation of the announcement made by the Minister of Railways on 19.2.1981 while introducing the Railway Budget for 1981-82. This demand, as also other similar demands, will be considered further in the light of the recommendations of that high powered committee.

Cancellation of Neelachal Express at Banaras Railway Station on 21.3.82

*720. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the scheduled run of Neelachal Express from New Delhi to Puri and vice versa has been cancelled since its inception in 1981;

(b) specific causes of such cancellation especially on 21 March, 1982 at Banaras Railway Station; and

(c) whether in this process the Neelachal Express has been singled out while all other train services are running quite

normally on this route causing untold sufferings to the travelling passengers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Since its introduction in 1980 (not 1981), 175|176 Puri-New Delhi Tri-weekly Neelachal Express has been cancelled on 22 occasions.

(b) 175|176 Neelachal Express trains were cancelled due to public agitation, breaches, accidents, strike by UP State Electricity Board staff and also due to certain Bundhs.

On 21-3-82 due to an accident between Muthani and Bhabua Road stations on Grand Chord section of Eastern Railway, 176 Dn Neelachal Express was detained for 440 minutes at Varanasi station and not cancelled.

(c) No, Sir.

Setting up of Committee to probe into the functioning of Central Universities

*721. SHRI M. KANDASWAMY;
SHRI CHANDRADEO
PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the members of Committee set up to probe into the functioning of Central Universities have been associated with Central Universities in the past; and

(b) if so, the Universities with which they were associated and the period of association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) The Members of the Committee appointed by University Grants Commission to enquire into the working of the Central Universities are as below;

Chairman

1. Dr (Mrs.) Madhuri Shah, Chairman, University Grants Commission.

Member

2. Dr G. Ram Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, Hyderabad.
3. Prof. Rais Ahmed, (formerly Vice-Chancellor, Kashmir University) Department of Physics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
4. Prof. (Mrs.) Ashima Chatterjee, Department of Chemistry, Calcutta University, Calcutta.
5. Dr. Ramesh Mohan, Director, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad.

Construing the association to mean employment in or membership of any of the important bodies of the University namely, Court, Executive Council and Academic Council, available information shows that Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri Shah has not been associated with any Central University. Prof. Rais Ahmed has been a teacher with the Aligarh Muslim University during 1944-45, 1950-59, 1964-74, and again from 1981 onwards. He was a member of the Executive Council of the Jawaharlal Nehru University from September 1974 to September 1976 and from January 1977 to September 1977. He was a member of the Court of the same University from September 1974 to September 1977. Since September 1980 he is a member of the Executive Council of the North-Eastern Hill University for a three-year period. Information regarding association of other members of the Committee with the Central University is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Promotion of domestic tourism

*722. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a separate Directorate of Tourism has been set up in the Railway Board to devise measures to provide facilities to foreigners; and

(b) whether similar arrangement is proposed to promote domestic tourism?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Tourism was established in the Ministry of Railways in pursuance to the announcement made by the Minister of Railways in his Budget Speech for 1981-82, to devise measures for convenient, comfortable and attractive rail travel facilities for foreign tourists for promoting tourism and generating additional foreign exchange resources for the country. It has been assigned, besides the work of promotion of tourism, several other important functions of the erstwhile Commercial Directorate. These include activities like development of Inter-modal traffic, Container Services, Passenger Services and Fare Structure, prevention of ticketless travel, work of City Booking and Out Agencies, Marketing and Sales and International Cooperation etc. The work of promoting domestic tourism was already being attended to by the Ministry of Railways as a part of its normal functions and measures were continually taken for its facilitation. This work is now being attended to by the Directorate of Tourism.

Piling up of unwanted and unused materials at Railway Yards

*723. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had made a study of the stock of unwanted and unused materials scattered at Railway Yards all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to exercise control on unwanted materials?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND DE-