

(c) the expenditure incurred, so far, and the time by which this scheme will be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI
RAVINDRA VARMA) : (a) Electri-
fication of the Delhi Ring Railway is a
part of the project of providing electrified
intra-urban rail commuter services in Delhi
Area which is estimated to cost Rs. 21.61
crores.

(b) Rs. 9 lakhs.

(c) As this project has yet to be cleared
by the Planning Commission and approved
by the Cabinet, no expenditure has been
incurred. The project will be com-
pleted in three to four years from the time
it is cleared.

Deterioration in the Punctuality of Trains

*71. SHRI DURGA CHAND:
SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a
great deterioration in the punctuality of
trains these days ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial steps are being taken
in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS & LABOUR (SHRI
RAVINDRA VARMA) : (a) There has
been some deterioration in the punctuality
of trains in the recent past.

(b) Punctuality performance of trains
was seriously affected during May and
June due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh
and unseasonal heavy rains in Maha-
rashtra, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh areas.
In fact, the repercussion of the cyclone is
even now being felt on the trains passing
over the Vijaywada-Gudur section.
Punctuality performance was also affected
by increased incidence of alarm chain
pulling in some areas and disconnection of
hose-pipes and other miscreant activities.
There were other unavoidable causes
also, such as, extreme summer heat in
some parts of North and Central India,
besides, public/staff agitations and acci-
dents. In addition, there was loss of punc-
tuality of trains also for avoidable causes,
such as, loco failures, loco losses, signal
failures and other operating failures.

(c) The imperative need to improve
punctuality was also impressed upon the
General Managers during their last meet-

ing with the Board on 12-6-79. Avoidable
deteriorations are taken up immediately and
remedial/ punitive action taken to improve
the running of trains. General Managers
have been instructed to give high priority
to punctual running of trains and to deal
with slackness of staff in this matter very
firmly. It was also decided that Zonal
Railways will set up monitoring cells
and depute teams of officers and super-
visors to accompany specific trains to
ensure punctuality and better up-keep.
Liaison is also being maintained with the
concerned State Governments to check the
incidence of alarm chain pulling, dis-
connection of hose-pipes and other mis-
creants activities.

Coal Pilferage from open loaded Rakes and Wagons

*72. SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal pilferage from loaded
rakes and wagons at Railway Stations and
sidings has become rampant in 1978-79;

(b) whether involvement of Railway
Protection Force is there specially when
large quantities are pilferred ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to prevent
this situation.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) : (a)
Judged from the number of cases
registered with the Railway Protection
Force, there has been some increase in the
pilferage of coal in 1978-79 as compared
to 1977-78.

(b) No.

(c) The increase in the number of cases
detected has kept pace with the number of
cases registered. Besides, the following
preventive steps have been taken to check
pilferage.

1. All block rakes carrying coal are
escorted by the R.P.F staff.

2. Adequate R.P.F. staff are posted at
yards and locosheds to guard coal wagons
and coal stacks.

3. Dog Squads are used to patrol vulner-
able yards and black spots by surprise.

4. R.P.F. pickets have been set up at
vulnerable stations and sections.

5. C.I.B. staff of Zonal Railways and plain clothed staff of divisions are deputed to collect crime intelligence regarding coal theft/pilferage and to organise frequent raids against anti-social elements.

6. Joint checks of weighment of wagons, receipt and issue of coal etc. at various depots are made by Inspectors of the Commercial, Mechanical and R.P.F. Departments to ensure proper accountal.

Crisis in Taxi Trade in Metropolitan Cities

*73. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that taxi trade has been seriously affected in the Metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras ;

(b) whether the present policies of pricing, distribution of passenger cars, the cost of ancillaries and petrol have any bearing on this crisis ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to consider this crisis ; and

(d) if not, what other remedies have been thought of by Government to end this crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) As far as the Ministry of Shipping and Transport is aware, taxi trade has not been seriously affected in Metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) At present there is no control on the pricing and distribution of passenger cars including ancillaries. The price of petrol in India depends upon international prices of the crude.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

I.L.O. Conference Geneva

*74. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR :
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether he recently attended the International Labour Organisation Conference at Geneva and led the Indian delegation there ;

(b) if so, full facts thereof including names of delegates who attended and the subjects discussed and decisions reached:

(c) whether he was unanimously selected as Chairman of the said Conference; and

(d) if so, the broad details of the main points be stressed in his Presidential observations and in his other sayings at the Geneva Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I. *Names of Delegates*

Minister attending the Conference:

Shri Ravindra Varma, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Labour.

A. *Government Group*

Delegates

1. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Labour and Tourism, Government of Maharashtra.

2. Shri K. S. Raghupathi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Alternate Delegates/Advisers

3. Shri C. R. Gharekhan, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

4. Shri R.K.A. Subrahmanya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

5. Shri T. S. Sankaran, Chairman, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil-Nadu.

6. Shri V. P. Sawhney, Director-General (Labour Welfare), Ministry of Labour.

7. Shri C. R. Nair, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

8. Shri K. S. Sodhi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva.

9. Shri S. S. Mukerji, Deputy Director, Ministry of Labour.