

(b) if not, what are the reasons for delay; and

(c) whether it is a fact that funds have been provided in the current year's budget to complete this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). The work of providing an entry to Amritsar Railway Station from Gole Bagh side was included in Railway's Budget 1978-79 as a New Work at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.68 lacs for which a token outlay of Rs. 0.15 lacs was provided in the current financial year (1978-79) to make preliminary arrangements such as preparation of designs and drawings and calling for tenders etc. The work will be speeded up during the next financial year 1979-80 and funds to the tune of Rs. 6 lacs are being provided for this purpose. It is expected that this work will be completed in about 3 years time.

Loss to Railways due to Anti-reservationists agitation

*57. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anti-reservationists damaged and attacked the railways, disrupting train services in several parts of the Bihar State and many other States also during the months of December, 1978 and January, 1979;

(b) if so, the total damage caused;

(c) which are the most affected sites;

(d) what steps were taken to reduce the damage caused and total expenditure involved; and

(e) what steps are being taken to protect railways from attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (e). Yes, it is a fact that anti-reservationists, disrupting train services in several parts of Bihar particularly, and other States also. The total loss of damage caused to the Railways during this agitation has been calculated to the tune of Rs. 3.50 lakhs approximately. Besides, 2 locomotives and 9 coaches on North Eastern Railway have badly been damaged. These have been sent for repair. Extent of damage to these locomotives and coaches in terms of money will be known after they are repaired.

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the States most affected in this regard.

Steps have been taken by way of repairing and replacement of damaged items. The expenditure involved would be known after the repairs of damaged items have been completed. Following are the steps taken to protect railways from attacks:—

1. The Railways have maintained close liaison with State Governments and have sought their assistance for maintenance of law and order in railway premises and on the track.

2. The State Governments have geared up their law and order machinery to give necessary assistance to the Railways.

3. The Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police have also been placed at the disposal of the State Governments for deployment on the Railways.

4. Sensitive railway stations are being guarded by Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Units.

5. State Police is escorting all passenger trains in the affected sections.

6. All Goods trains are being escorted by the Railway Protection Force in the affected sections.

7. Patrol specials with armed guards are being run in affected sections.

8. Cases have been registered for criminal acts committed on the Railways and on the track and are being investigated by the Police with a view to prosecuting the culprits.

9. Minister of Railways had also drawn the attention of Chief Ministers of the affected States to the deteriorating situation and had requested for their assistance in bringing about normalcy in train operation.

Coach repair factory at Rayalseema

*58. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted in Rayalseema to set up a coach repair factory in that area;

(b) if so, the places surveyed; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among other places on the Southern Railway, Tirupati East in the Rayalseema area served by the South-Central Railway was also surveyed for the purpose of setting up the factory.

(c) Not yet.

Loss of Mandays

*59. DR. RAMJI SINGH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the mandays lost as a result of strikes in the country during the last one year;

(b) steps taken to remedy the situation; and

(c) whether Government feel that Labour relations are likely to be

affected as a result of all round opposition to the proposed Industrial Relations Bill?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) According to the available provisional information, there was a time loss of 10.99 million mandays due to strike in 1978.

(b) The situation is under constant watch of the Government. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the State continued to make efforts to minimise Work stoppages through informal mediation, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements.

(c) No Sir, there would be adequate opportunity for full consideration of the Bill before its passage.

Introduction of New Rajdhani Type Fast Express Trains

*60. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to introduce any more Rajdhani type fast express trains;

(b) if so, how does Government propose to implement its plans to test and introduce trains running at speeds upto 160 kms per hour; and

(c) the progress and plans for speeding up trains running in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It has been decided not to introduce any more Rajdhani type of trains on any other route, as relief of overcrowding should be given priority over any programme of increasing speed of fast passenger carrying trains. However, Indian Rail-