

Construction of hostels in Delhi University

1201. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders for construction of two hostels one for the girls to be located at North Campus and the other for boys of North-Eastern States to be located at South Campus, of Delhi University, have been finalised; and

(b) if so, by when the programme of execution of this project is likely to be taken up and when it is going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) On the basis of information furnished by the Delhi University, the contract for the P.G. Girls hostel at North Campus has already been awarded and Tenders for construction of 100 seated Boys hostel at South Campus of the University have been received. These hostels are expected to be completed within two years.

Change in the content of history text books

1202. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating a change in revising the content of school text books in history purportedly strengthening the nationalist content;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that such changes would include emphasising and enlarging the role of erstwhile Jana Sangh leaders?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Train from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam

1203. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway plan to introduce a new train from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam after the departure of Godavari Express;

(b) whether the Railways are aware of the need for a late night train to Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to meet this requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Feasibility of introduction of late night train between Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Losses of Railways

1204. SHRI K.K. BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have suffered losses worth crores of rupees during the current financial year (1998-99);

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to check such losses in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) In view of the shortfall in loading of core sector commodities such as Coal, Food-grains, Iron and Steel, Cement and Iron Ore, freight earnings have also dropped below the expected level. However, there is some buoyancy in Passenger, Other Coaching and Sundry earnings. With this, the total earnings of the Railways for the current financial year, are being estimated to be short of the target by Rs. 1056 crores.

(c) and (d) Zonal railways have been directed to make special efforts to capture additional freight traffic in core sectors as also in other areas so as to make good the shortfall to the extent possible. The steps taken by Ministry of Railways to attract more traffic, inter alia, include reduction in classification of certain commodities, providing 'Volume Discount' on selected commodities, delegating full powers to the General Managers to quote Station-to-Station rates and preparing a special package for Steel sector. Besides, the zonal railways have also been directed to enhance passenger earnings, intensify ticket checking, pursue recovery of outstanding dues and also control Ordinary Working Expenses.

Laying of double line on Ghaziabad-Moradabad route

1205. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay double line on Ghaziabad-Moradabad rail route; if so, the time schedule and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that both the passenger and goods trains run late by several hours due to single rail line there, resulting in undue delay in transportation of goods;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make specific provisions in the budget to convert this line in the next two years; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ghaziabad-Mehrauli has already been doubled. Mehrauli to Hapur is targetted for completion by March, 2000. Moradabad-Amroha has been included in budget 1999-2000. The remaining section will be taken up for doubling in the coming years.

(c) The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) Does not arise.

Changes in norms for rail passes

1206. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made some changes in the norms to give rail passes to Ex-MPs, freedom fighters disabled, etc.;

(b) if so, what are those changes; and

(c) the details of circumstances which led to make such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) I Class/