

Estimated loss suffered by the Railways

22. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) -what is the estimated loss suffered by the Railways since 1st April, 1990' (till date) on account of fall in freight, fall in passenger traffic, de-station of rolling stocks|stations| railway lines in agitations in various parts of the country and increase in the working expenses due to inflation; and

(b) the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) But the loss suffered by Railways on account of agitations (upto December, 1990) is approximately Rs. 125 crores. Increase in working expenses due to inflation is not susceptible to quantification.

(b) No concrete steps have yet been formalised.

Decline in Tourism

23. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) what is the percentage of decline in Indian Tourism during 1990 as against the estimate and as compared to the tourist traffic in 1989;

(b) what is the percentage of decline in the foreign exchange earnings as a consequence thereof;

(c) whether any critical analysis has been made by Government therefor; if so, whether the decline in tourist traffic is due to law and order problem in the various States: continuous inadequate facilities in the State-owned hotels and at the tourist resorts in the country; inadequate planning to promote tourism; and lack of coordination between Government and the travel trade;

(d) the projection made for tourist traffic in 1991; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI-MATI USHA SINGH): (a) The percentage decline in foreign tourist traffic to India excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh during 1990 is about 0.5 per cent over 1989 as against a target of about 8 per cent growth.

(b) As per the provisional estimates available, the foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1990 recorded an increase of about 8 per cent over 1989.

(c) The decline in foreign tourist traffic to India during 1990 was primarily due to various developments both within the country and abroad. These include adverse overseas publicity of disturbances in some parts of the country political and economic developments in various countries and the Gulf crisis.

(d) and (e) The outbreak of war in the Middle East has seriously affected the international tourist traffic all over the world including India. It is therefore, not possible to make any realistic projections before the war is over.

Capacity utilisation by the oil industry

24. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of capacity utilisation by the oil industry in the country as against the installed capacity during 1990 because of inadequate availability of edible oils|oil seeds;

(b) what is the percentage of rise in the prices of edible oils during the last

six months and how does it reflect on the oil industry in the country;

(c) what is the likely shortage of edible oils and oil-seeds during 1990-91 as against the estimated demand;

(d) whether Government propose to import edible oils to improve capacity utilisation and to give relief to the oil industry besides containing the rising prices in consumer interest; and

(e) if so, what is the decision taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The overall capacity utilisation of the Oil industry is around 45 per cent.

(b) Average rise in the wholesale prices of oils during the last six months is around 19 per cent. No significant effect on the performance of oil industry has been noticed during the period.

(c) The gap between indigenous supply and demand for edible oils during the year 1990-91 is estimated around H-58 lakh MT.

(d) and (e) Vegetable oils are being imported from time to time for Public Distribution System (PDS) depending upon various considerations like shortage of oils, foreign exchange reserves, prices in the domestic and international markets etc. Present situation does not envisage any imports for oil Industry.

Collision of Goods Trains at Guwahati

25. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons were killed and injured in the collision of two goods trains at Guwahati on the 8th January, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss of lives and property;

(d) the reasons of the accident; and

(e) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (e) On 8-1-1991, a collision took place between two goods trains at Chautara station on the Alipurduar Division of Northeast Frontier Railways. As a result, 2 railway staff were killed and 2 others grievously injured.

Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 2.12 crores.

A departmental inquiry into this accident is in progress.

Derailement of 229 UP Durg-Waltair Passenger train

26. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that seven bogies of 229 Up Durg-Waltair Passenger train derailed in Raipur on the 4th January, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured;

(c) whether any compensation has since been paid to them;

(d) the loss of property due to accident and reasons of the accident; and

(e) whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir, However, on 3-1-1991 at about 21.15 hrs., while 229 Up Durg-Waltair passenger was on run between Arang-Mahanadi and Belsonda stations of Waltair Division of South Eastern Railway, 7 coaches next to engine derailed.

(b) No passenger was killed or injured.

(c) Does not arise.