

The results of the analysis of the residue data are published regularly in the annual reports and other publications of the organisations generating the data.

**Railway concessions to pensioners and aged people**

1773. SHRIMATI MANORAM PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pensioners and other general public above the age of 65 are entitled to 25% concession in Railway fares;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue identity cards to all pensioners at their cost showing therein their date of birth to enable them getting Railway concessions without experiencing any difficulty about their actual age; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES): (a) Yes, Sir, 25% concession in second class is admissible to the senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above for travelling beyond 500 Kms.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to issue identity cards to the senior citizens as no proof of age is required at the time of purchasing tickets.

**Unauthorised construction in Shahdara, Delhi**

1774. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unauthorised construction, encroachments on roads etc. on Vikas Marg and Laxmi Nagar;

(b) the number of cases where appropriate action was taken and result achieved therefrom; and

(c) whether such activities are still going on?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that during the period 1-1-90 to 24-5-90, 47 cases of unauthorised construction/encroachments on roads on Vikas Marg and Laxmi Nagar were detected and notices were issued under Sections 343 and 344 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act in all these cases.

(c) Unauthorised construction/encroachment is a continuing process and as and when such activity is noticed, action under the provisions of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act is taken.

**Modernisation of train services in North East**

1775. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to modernise the train services in the North East;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide double line upto Dibrugarh; and

(c) whether Government are likely to take necessary steps to facilitate to run the trains in time and in a more speedy way?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) Improvement in/Modernisation of train services on different Zones of Indian Railways (including North East Frontier) is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility and resource availability

(b) No, Sir

(c) Close monitoring and intensive chasing already being done to ensure punctuality of passenger carrying trains. The journey time of the trains are reviewed at the time of revision of time table and action taken to speed up the trains wherever feasible.

**Visit of Central team to flood affected areas of Punjab**

1776. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a central team had visited the flood affected villages of Badla, Harta, Rajpur Bhayan in District Hoshiarpur of Punjab in 1988 and assured the affected villagers of the assistance for clearing their land of 5-10 feet thick layers of sand to make the land cultivable;

(b) if so, the area rendered uncultivable and the number of the persons affected and rendered unemployed as a result thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to clear the sand during the

last two years before March, 1990;

(d) whether the affected farmers had to hire the bulldozers for clearing the sand at an exorbitant rate of Rs 370/- per hour;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(g) the modalities formulated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A Central Team in 1988 visited some of the flood affected villages in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab to make an assessment of the damage caused to agricultural land by sand-casting. As reported by the State Government, their total agricultural land affected by sand casting in the villages of Badla, Harta and Rajpur Bhayan and the number of persons rendered unemployed is as under :

Village	Area affected (in ha.)	Persons rendered unemployed
Badla	125	80
Harta	28	19
Rajpur Bhayan	=	=

However, the depth of land varied from 2 inches to 4 ft and no agricultural land in the said villages had sand depth between 5-10 ft.

(c) As per report received from the Government of Punjab, agricultural land measuring 96 ha. having sand depth less than 2 ft has been brought under cultivation in these

villages. The remaining agricultural land measuring 57 ha. had sand depth more than 2 ft and the State Government approved a separate scheme for removal of sand from these areas. Funds under the scheme were released in the last week of March, 1990 but the same could not be utilised due to shortage of time. Hence the remaining agricultural land will be made available for cultivation during 1990-91.