

the placing of specific trains under individual charge; and

(b) what further steps are contemplated to improve the punctuality of trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLI-KARJUN): (a) Yes, some trains do run late sometimes on account of alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, disconnection of hosepipes, dents, rolling stock failures, signal failures/defects and other open-ting failures.

(b) Punctuality performance of important mail/express trains is watched in the Railway Board's Office On day-to-day basis. General Managers are paying personal attention to matters pertaining to punctual running of trains. Liaison with concerned State Governments is being maintained by various Zonal Railways for arresting the incidence of alarm chain pulling, hosepipe disconnection and other miscreant activities.

Dislocation of suburban Railway services in Bombay and Calcutta

611. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE; SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent dislocation of suburban Railway services in Calcutta and Bombay; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken, by the Railway Administration in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (fe) Yes. However, cancellation of suburban-trains in Calcutta and on the Western-

Railway portion in Bombay has been negligible. On Central Railway portion in Bombay, due to shortage of rakes, failure of rakes due to overage and miscreant activities some cancellation of suburban trains becomes inevitable.

Suburban services will be improved on receipt of additional Electric Multiple Units for replacement of the existing overaged stock.

Circular Railway in Calcutta

612. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE; SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the techno-economic survey regarding the feasibility of Circular Railway in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the said Committee and what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No

(b) Question does not arise.

Man-power planning in respect, Steam loco-shed

613. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan in respect of steam loco-sheds which are being closed down due to rejection of overaged steam engines;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

* (c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?