

controversial and representations have been received for and against this demand.

Railway accidents

608. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents and train robberies which have taken place during the last three months;

(b) what are the details of loss of property and life in this regard; and

(c) what is the assessment of the steps so far taken for prevention of accidents and robberies and whether any new directions are going to be issued in the light of experience?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 203 train accidents and 27 train robberies (other than dacoities) occurred during the last three months, namely, April to June, 1982.

(b) In these train accidents 67 persons were killed and the cost of damage to railway property so far estimated amounts to approximately Rs. 119.1 lakhs. Loss suffered by passengers in train robberies is not available.

(c) Steps taken for prevention of accident have started yielding results inasmuch as incidence of train accidents during April to June, 1982 was less than that during the corresponding period of the last year. Instructions have been issued for pursuing the safety measures in all sphere and at all levels to eliminate train accidents.

Since prevention of robberies in trains is a state subject, the attention of the concerned State authorities is constantly drawn to it at various

levels. Even the Minister of Railways has also been drawing the attention of the Chief Ministers of U.P., Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra towards the need for improving security measures on the railways so that better security and safety could be ensured to passengers.

Introduction of new super fast trains

609. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Super Fast trains which have been introduced during the last three months on different routes;

(b) how many of them are newly introduced and how many of them by renaming the existing trains as Super Fast Trains; and

(c) what is the total revenue expected this year by naming the trains as Super Fast?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) During the last three months, 14 pairs of trains have been designated as "Super Fast Trains" for the purpose of levy of supplementary charge, which includes a newly introduced train. 12 pairs of these trains have since been deleted from the list. No separate statistics of earnings on this account is maintained.

Improvement in punctuality of trains

610. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE:

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the regular delay in the running of mail and express trains even after the increase of the running time and

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 MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, some trains do run late sometimes on account of alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, disconnection of hosepipes, accidents, rolling stock failures, signal failures/defects and other operating 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 (b) 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 for man-power 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?