

(b) As a number of cases are pending against Shrimati Indira Gandhi in various criminal courts in India, her application for the renewal of her passport can be considered only after she has obtained the permission of these courts, to go abroad. The applicant has been advised accordingly.

Loss suffered by Railways due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

451. SHRI CHADALAVADA VENKATRAO:

SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH:

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total loss suffered by the Railways in the recent devastating cyclone in Andhra Pradesh; due to damage to the rail tracks and other property;

(b) what is the loss of earnings from passenger and goods traffic on that account;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of houses belonging to the railwaymen were damaged in the cyclone;

(d) if so, what are the details of the assistance provided to the effected railwaymen;

(e) what steps have been taken to repair the rail lines; and

(f) whether the normalcy in service of trains have now started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The total physical loss (excluding the loss of traffic earnings) suffered by the Railway is estimated to be Rs. 4 crores.

(b) The loss of traffic earnings (both passenger and goods) is estimated as Rs. 10 crores.

(c) The roofs of a large number of staff quarters were blown away.

(d) The affected staff quarters were re-roofed with topmost speed. Cyclone advance totalling Rs. 25 lakhs was paid to the affected staff expeditiously.

(e) The Railway swung into action immediately mobilising thousands of labourers and necessary technical personnel to carry out the repairs on a war-footing round the clock. All the affected sections have since been re-opened to traffic.

(f) Yes, except for additional running time on the Vijayawada-Gudur section for observing caution over the portion of track affected by the cyclone.

Fast train between Chandigarh and New Delhi

452. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE:

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has received representations for starting a day time fast train between Delhi and Chandigarh which is not connected with Delhi by a fast and convenient train; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) Introduction of a fast train between Delhi/New Delhi and Chandigarh Kalka is not operationally feasible for want of line capacity on saturated Delhi-Ambala section. Work on doubling of track between Delhi and Panipat is already in progress. Other line capacity works are also being planned. This will be kept in view when additional line capacity is generated on this section and terminal facilities are developed at Chandigarh.