

reduced targets of expenditure in order to generate sufficient savings to absorb the post-budgetary liabilities to the maximum extent, possible.

Though the financial results of the first seven months of the current year are not upto the budget, projections, it is not possible to predict the precise position of the Railways' finances at the end of the year as the remaining months are generally the busy period from the point of view of freight traffic.

Madras High Court Bench at Madurai

*310. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN:

Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 32 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th July, 1978 and state:

(a) whether the reply awaited from the Tamil Nadu Government regarding setting up of a bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai has since been received and a decision taken in this regard; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Strikes in different Railway Zones

*311. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:
SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes resorted to by the workers in different Railway Zones since April, 1977;

(b) the reasons for each of these Strikes and the manner in which settlement was reached during each Strike;

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the assurances given to the striking workers on each occasion; and

(d) the number of mandays lost and the loss of life and property belonging to the railway employees, general public and Government during each strike?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). There was no strike as such since April, 1977. However, there were 84 cases of work stoppages of a minor nature by different categories of Railway workers between April, 1977 and November, 1978. Detailed information in regard to these incidents is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The number of mandays lost during 1977-78 due to strikes is 1.859.

Information regarding loss of life and property, if any, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tenders for parcel handling contract at Aligarh

*312. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited for parcel handling contract at Aligarh railway station in August, 1978;

(b) if so, whether the tenders have been finalised and the contract awarded; and a!

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

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

(b) Not yet, Sir.