

fixed for the year is likely to be achieved within the year itself; and

- (c) if not, what are the reasons Therefore and what concrete steps are Proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE* MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Although there are 14 approved gauge conversion projects which appear in the budget for 1978-79, only one project i.e. Sura-thgarh to Bhatinda (142 Kms.) was targetted to be completed during 1978-79, consistent with the provision and distribution of funds. A number of other projects have progressed towards completion.

(b) The conversion of Suratgarh-Bhatinda line has already been completed except for some ancilliary work and the B.G. line has been opened to traffic during the year.

- (c) Does not arise.

Reservation of rail accommodation through travel agencies

1455. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the reservation of rail accommodation through the registered travel agencies has given rise to corruption and malpractices;

(b) what is the number of registered travel agencies functioning in the country and in Delhi;

(c) whether Government propose to do away with thjs system; if so, by when; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No. However,

there are unrecognised travel agencies also operating and some of them reportedly indulge in malpractices.

(b) The number of recognised tourist agencies functioning in the country is 38 including 13 in Delhi.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration. The system of appointing Tourist Agents is Dri-marly intended to cater to foreign tourist traffic as also provide a facility to such of the domestic passengers who want to save themselves from the trouble of going to reservation offices and queuing up there.

Setting up of High Court benches at Meerut and Jammu

1456. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH:

SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI PILOO MODY;

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that repeated demands have been made for the setting up of High Court benches at Meerut and Jammu;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to set up these benches; if so, by when the benches would be set up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Demands have been made for the setting up of a Bench of Allahabad High Court at Meerut. No representation has been received by the Government of India for the setting up of a High Court Bench at Jammu.

(b) and (c). The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, who have proposed

that a Bench should be established for the Western District of Uttar Pradesh, have intimated that they have yet to come to a conclusion in regard to the specific place where such a Bench should be set up.

Regarding the question of a Bench at Jammu Clauses (1) and (2) of Section 101 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir read as follows:—

"(1) The usual places of sitting of the High Court shall be Jammu and Srinagar.

(2) The Chief Justice shall, with the approval of the Sadar-i-Riyasat, determine the number of Judges who shall sit from time to time at Jammu and at Srinagar for such period as may be deemed necessary."

Under these provisions one or more Judges sit in Jammu as well as at Srinagar even at present.

Representation from the employees of the Bhatani railway station regarding their conditions of service

1457. SHRI Ng. TOMPOK SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from some employees working at the Bhatani railway station in the Deoria district of U.P. regarding condonation of break in service and grant of proforma promotions and retirement benefits;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the employees working at that railway station have attained the age of 58 years and are still in the service; and (

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to remove the grievances of the affected employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No. However,

only one employee, a Pointsman working at the Bhatani Railway Station had represented for condonation of break in service. The request was considered by the Railway Administration but was not acceded to as it was not covered under the rules.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Special trains to clear the winter rush

1458. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run any special trains to clear the heavy winter rush especially for the South; and

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

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

(b) 2 special trains are proposed to be run from New Delhi/Nizamuddin to Madras tentatively on 22nd and 28th December, 1978.

Cancellation of trains

1459. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 15 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1978 and state:

(a) the number of trains, cancelled due to coal shortage, restored till date and the number of Trains yet to be restored, Zone-wise; and