

Decline in the railway earnings

*8. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:
SHRI DHANESHWAR MAJHI;
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
SAHU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the railway earnings till the end of August, 1978 during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what are the details of this decline in (i) passenger earnings, and (ii) freight earnings and how do the earnings this year compare with the earnings during the corresponding period of the last year;

(c) what are the factors responsible for the decline; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to economise on the working expenses and to reach the surplus envisaged in the budget estimates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU LANDAVATE): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The position of earnings for the period ending August 1978 as compared to (a) earnings to end of August 1977 and (b) proportionate earnings target fixed for the period ending August 1978, is given in the table below:

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

	April- August 1977-78 Actuals	April- August 1978-79 Proportionate Target	April- August 1978-79 Actuals	Variations between	
				Col. 1 & 3	Col. 2 & 3
Earnings					
Passenger	264.11	279.90	284.22	+20.11	+4.32
Other Coachings	33.20	34.69	34.58	+1.38	-0.11
Goods	559.17	586.00	546.04	-13.13	-39.96
Sundry	17.79	17.51	19.22	+1.43	+1.71
TOTAL	874.27	918.10	884.06	+9.79	-34.04

It would be seen from the above table that as compared to the period ending August 1977, there has been an increase of Rs. 9.79 crores in revenue during the period ending August, 1978. As compared to the proportionate earnings target for the period ending August, 1978, there has, however, been a shortfall of Rs. 34.04 crores.

The drop in earnings, with reference to the proportionate earnings target to end of August, 1978, is mainly due to set back in goods loading.

While the earnings are more than the proportion target in respect of passenger (Rs. 4.23 crores) and sundry earnings (Rs. 1.71 crores), the shortfall in goods earnings is of the order of Rs. 39.96 crores, apart from a minor shortfall of Rs. 0.11 crore under other coachings.

The shortfall under goods earnings has been due to the drop of 7.46 million tonnes in loading to end of August, 1978, as compared to the anticipated movement. As compared to

the corresponding period of the last year, the shortfall had been to the extent of 3.97 million tonnes.

(c) The shortfall in the earnings under goods traffic is mainly attributable to the following reasons:—

(i) Shortfall in the loading of coal to steel plants and washeries vis-a-vis the programmed movement, on account of inadequate availability of raw coal and difficulties in the functioning of washeries.

(ii) Shortfall in loading of raw materials to steel plants due to (a) fall in the production of saleable steel in the integrated steel plants (b) difficulties in mines due to interruptions in power supply etc.

(iii) Less loading of iron ore for export due to decrease in export orders.

(iv) Loss in coal loading due to

(a) a month long strike in Singareni Collieries in April/May 1978.

(b) loss in loading due to less offer of steam coal from Eastern Coal fields Ltd. (Raniganj Area).

(v) Public agitations in Bihar, Marathwada etc.

(d) Certain administrative measures have been taken to secure savings through economies. A reserve to the tune of Rs. 69.44 crores has been retained from out of the Voted Grants, and the Zonal Railways have been instructed to contain the working expenses, within the reduced amounts allotted to them, after keeping apart the Reserve. The trend to end of August is encouraging.

High Court Bench at Aurangabad

*9. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAM-CHANDRA MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government about the setting up of a High Court Bench at Aurangabad; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Certain consultations with the State authorities were in progress. The reply of the State authorities has been received only on 8th November, 1978.

Raising of railway fares in West Bengal

*10. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railways charged three times the normal fare from passengers travelling from Calcutta (Howrah) to Kharagpur via Asansol as the normal railway route between these two stations over the South-eastern Railway was damaged due to floods; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the extant rules, fares are charged by the actual carried route once diversion is notified to the public. However, persons already holding Season Tickets were not required to pay any extra charge.