

Lack of provision of seats for the coach conductor in express trains

*602. SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coach conductors are not provided with any seat in the G.T. and other express trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on, the Table of the House.

Statement

Lack of Provision of seats for the Coach Conductor in Express trains

While no separate seat is earmarked for the exclusive use of conductors as they are required to move about and look after the convenience of all classes of passengers, the vacant accommodation in the train and the second seat in the guard's brake-ran are available for his use.

In the first class corridor type coaches and second class sleeper coaches, seats are provided for coach attendants/TTEs. In the vestibuled trains one coach attendant/TTE is required to look after two coaches* The seats thus rendered vacant, are also available for and are occupied by the conductors, when they are otherwise not engaged in their train duties.

Complaint against officer, of the I.O.C., Barauni

*607. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint against the Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation and some officers of the Oil Refinery at Barauni levelling charges of

corruption, cheating, abetment, conspiracy and forgery in contract No. DCR/632 of 1970-71 for repair of pre-mixed road carpeting from the factory-site to the Refinery Township, Begu-sarai; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since November, 1975 Government have been receiving representations from one Shri J. S. Nayyar, an Engineering Assistant, employed in Barauni Refinery that some over-payment has been made in Contract No. DCR/632 of 1970-71 for repair of premixed road carpeting from the factory site to the Refinery Township, Begusarai. Allegations of corruption, cheating, abetment, conspiracy and forgery have been made against various officers of Indian Oil Corporation including the Chairman. The detailed reports received from Indian Oil Corporation in this regard are under examination.

India Tobacco Company

*608. SHRI MAHADEO PRASAD VARMA:
SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH:

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

(a) whether the multinational India Tobacco Company is now a majority Indian-owned company; if so, when was the foreign equity-holding of the company brought down to the required level;

(b) who is the Chairman of this Company and since when he is holding that office; and

(c) what are the amounts donated by the Company to various political parties and organisations including donations to souvenirs brought out by such parties | organisations during the last 3 years, party/organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN); (a) India Tobacco Company Ltd., now known as I.T.C. Ltd., became a majority Indian-owned company with the offer for sale by three major non-resident shareholders, of 38 lakh ordinary shares of Rs. 10/- each to the Indian public, made in December, 1975.

(b) As per the latest annual return made upto 25-8-1977 filed by the Company with the Registrar of Companies, West Bengal, Shri A. N. Haksar is the Chairman of the Company. He was first appointed in this post with effect from 1st June 1989. He retired from the service of the company on 30-6-1975 and was reappointed as Chairman with effect from 1-7-1975 for a period of 5 years.

(c) The company has not made any payments to political parties towards charges for advertisements in souvenirs etc. during the last three years.

Lack of inputs on narrow gauge lines

*609. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: SHR KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: SHRI BHAGWAN DIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of inputs on the narrow gauge lines, operational efficiency of such lines is gradually deteriorating;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the track and rolling stock in use on such lines are also overaged; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (Pr. OF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

About 40 per cent of narrow gauge track is overaged and the rolling stock is overaged to the extent of 63 per cent in case of locomotives, 49 per cent in case of passenger coaches and 60 per cent in case of wagons on the "basis of their normal service life.

The overaged track and rolling stock are gradually being replaced on a programmed basis depending upon availability of funds. However, these are being maintained in good condition and are at no stage allowed to deteriorate to such an extent as to become unsafe for carriage of passenger and freight traffic. However to a certain extent the factors mentioned above, put a constraint in operational efficiency on the narrow gauge lines.

Supply of Bengal Chemical products to co-operatives

*610. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON;

With PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Limited is not supplying its household products to the co-operatives;

(b) if so what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure supply of these products to the co-operatives as per the national policy?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA); (a) No such complaint has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.