

The break through in Swadeshi drive on the Railways has been achieved as a result of harnessing the technological skill available in the country by the coordinated efforts of the Production Units as well as the Zonal Railways under the guidance of the highest level of management of the Ministry of Railways. During the past one year it has been possible for the three production units and Zonal Railways to take off from the import list as many as 181 items evaluated at Rs. 5.17 crores per annum.

Late running of trains after Basar Station

362. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAM-CHANDRA MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains running between Kachiguda and Manmad invariably run late after Basar Station; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to improve their punctuality?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) The punctuality performance of passenger carrying trains on Kacheguda-Manmad section during May, June and July, 1976 was 74, 75 and 86 per cent respectively.

(b) The late running is due to alarm chain pulling by staff of Vigilance Cell of Andhra Pradesh State Government on Andhra-Maharashtra border for checking rice smuggling activity. The matter has been taken up with State Government authorities by the South Central Railway and a special punctuality drive was organised in July, which has resulted in some improvement. Every endeavour is being made to keep up this improvement.

Survey for extension of Railway line from Jorhat to Sibsagar

363. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:
SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHETTRI:
DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether in view of the public demand Government propose to conduct any survey for the extension of the Furkating-Jorhat N.F. Railway line from Jorhat to Sibsagar along the National Highway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUNTA SINGH): Due to non-availability of adequate funds, for completing the construction of new rail links in progress/approved for being taken up for construction, it may not be possible to take up the proposed survey at present.

COB licences to M/s. May and Baker Ltd.

364. SHRI BANARSI DAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a COB licence was granted to M/s. May and Baker Limited first on actual production basis and subsequently on installed capacity basis;

(b) if so, whether the procedure laid down for the grant of COB licences to companies having 100 per cent foreign equity was gone through before the grant of licence to this company; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) Under the liberalisation policy, of 27th October, 1966,