

vide complete information in the first instance and additional information has to be obtained. In certain other cases, policy decisions on the industry as a whole have to be arrived at. However, all possible steps are being taken to ensure expeditious disposal of the pending applications.

LATE RUNNING OF FRONTIER MAIL

576. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of times when the Frontier Mail ran late from Bombay to Delhi during the last three months;

(b) the reasons for its late running and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether there has been any improvement in the punctuality of this train after the measures recently taken in that regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में

उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Out of 91 days of April, May and June, 71, Frontier Mail reached Delhi right time on 57 days and late upto 15 mts. on 7 days.

(b) The reasons have been miscellaneous and do not form a particular pattern. In June, however, heavy rains in Bombay affected the running of this train.

(c) Yes, out of first 28 days of July, 71, the train arrived Delhi right time on 24 days.

SALE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS AT SANGLI STATION

577. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to sell the land and buildings of the metre gauge railway station at Sangli as the metre gauge line has been closed down,

(b) if so, whether Government have invited any tenders from the public in this regard,

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Sangli Municipal Borough requesting them to hand over the possession of the aforesaid land and buildings for the use of the Municipality; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(d) As the State Government, the Municipal Council and other bodies are interested in taking over these lands and buildings, it has been decided to relinquish the same to the State Government at the maximum current market price based on the tenders already received. The Municipal Council and other bodies have been asked to approach the State Government further in the matter.

MAHALAXMI EXPRESS

578. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the speed of Mahalaxmi Express between Kolhapur and Bombay V.T.; and

(b) if so, what time it will be given effect to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में

उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Yes, the journey time of Mahalaxmi Express between Bombay-Pune-Kolhapur will be reduced by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours from 110-71.

NON PAYMENT OF WAGES TO CONDUCTORS IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

579. SHRI T. K. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to refer to the replies to Starred Question No. 175 and Unstarred Question No. 366 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th April and 31st May, 1971, respectively and state the reasons for the non-payment of wages up to the 30th April, 1965 to the Conductors in terms of General Manager, Northern Railway letter, dated the 18th July, 1964 and in accordance with Railway Board's letter of the 17th May, 1965?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में

उपमंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Special Travelling Ticket Examiners in charge of sleeper coaches were not to be designated as 'Conductors' before the General Manager, Northern Railway's letter,