

LATE RUNNING OF FRONTIER MAIL

677. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Frontier Mail was running late during the last six months;

(b) the reasons for its late running; and

(c) the action taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Nos. 3Dn/4Up Frontier Mails arrived late at Delhi Junction and Bombay Central on 84 and 34 occasions respectively during the six months January to June 1968.

(b) Late running of this train was caused chiefly by Control and Signal failures resulting from thefts of telecommunication and other essential equipment alarm chain pulling on other trains resulting in dislocation of running schedules on the saturated single line sections en-route between Bombay Central and New Delhi, etc

(c) A close watch is kept on the punctual running of this and other trains at all levels from the Divisions to the Railway Board. All cases of avoidable detentions are taken up for corrective and punitive action. Every effort feasible is being made to ensure the punctual running of the Frontier Mails.

CONVERSION OF MIRAJ-KOLHAPUR METER GAUGE INTO BROAD GAUGE LINE

678. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the conversion of Miraj-Kolhapur Meter Gauge line into Broad Gauge line;

(b) if so, the details regarding the alignment, total estimate etc. of the proposed Broad Gauge line; and

(c) by what time the work will commence and be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) The question of taking up this work immediately is under consideration.

(b) The conversion which is estimated to cost about Rs. 2.5 crores will be along the existing alignment, Miraj remaining as the take-off point.

(c) The work is likely to be taken up during the current working season and is likely to be completed by the end of 1969.

N. C. D. C. COLLIERIES

679 SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the built-up production potential of the N C. D. C. collieries as on 30th June, 1968;

(b) the total production of coal during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68, and the despatches made by the collieries during the above period;

(c) whether there is any shortfall in supply, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to make up the shortfall?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) The National Coal Development Corporation have a built-in capacity of about 15 million tonnes per annum at present.

(b) The figures of the production and despatches made by the N. C. D. C.'s collieries during the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 are given below :

(In million tonnes)			
Year		Production	Despatches
1966-67	.	9.49	9.12
1967-68	.	10.35	10.04

(c) and (d) There was some shortfall in supply owing to inadequate supply of wagons. Efforts are being made to improve the supply of wagons.

COFFEE EXPORT

680. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Coffee exported during years 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68;