

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to suspend some train services which are running into loss from the economic point of view;

(b) if so, what are the names of the Sections on which the train services would be discontinued; and

(c) what are the criteria which have been kept in view while taking this decision?]

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी.एम.पुनाचा) :

(क) से (ग) जिन खण्डों पर गाड़ियाँ आर्थिक दृष्टि से घाटे में चल रही हैं या जहाँ कम खर्च पर यातायात के दूसरे साधन उपलब्ध हैं या हो सकते हैं, रेल प्रशासन उन खण्डों पर गाड़िया बन्द करने के सवाल पर विचार कर रहा है। इस सम्बन्ध में आवश्यक आंकड़े इकट्ठे किये जा रहे हैं और सभी परिणामों पर विचार करने के बाद इस बारे में निर्णय किया जायेगा।

†[THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) to (c) The question of discontinuance of train services on sections, where they are found to run financially at a loss and where other means of transport are/can be made available at a lower cost is under examination of the Railways. Relevant data is being collected and a decision in the matter will be taken after all the implications have been studied.]

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER AT LONAND RAILWAY STATION

339. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civic authorities in Lonand Poona-Hubli Section have offered to supply drinking water for the Railway station and staff quarters at Lonand; and

(b) if so, the reasons for which the offer was not availed of?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes. The Gram Panchayat offered to supply water at the rate of Rs. 4 per thousand gallons.

(b) After examining all aspects of the case, the railway administration has decided to accept the offer.

SENIORITY LIST OF WIRELESS OPERATORS ON S. RAILWAY

340. SHRI YELLA REDDY:
SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mysore and Madras High Courts have upheld the seniority list of Wireless Operators prepared on the Southern Railway under the directions of the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not implementing the list?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b) There was no dispute about the implementation or otherwise of the seniority list of Wireless Operators prepared on the Southern Railway in accordance with Railway Board's orders. One Sri A. J. Stanley filed a writ petition in the Mysore High Court claiming that the above seniority list which was, in fact, a revision with effect from 18th June, 1962, should be given effect to retrospectively and the promotions due to him from time to time in the former years should be given to him together with monetary arrears. This claim was admitted by the High Court of Mysore without questioning the principles governing the drawing up of the seniority list. Their verdict has been implemented. A similar writ petition in the Madras High Court by another affected employees has been rejected. The Board's intention was that the revised seniority list should be given effect to

in future and not retrospectively. In view of the position taken in the two High Courts, there is no need to change the orders of the Railway Board which are being carried out by the Southern Railway Administration. In the case of Sri A. J. Stanley, however, the High Court of Mysore's judgement has had to be carried out, although it was not in line with the policy directive of the Railway Board.

INTERRUPTION TO SUBURBAN TRAIN SERVICES OF CENTRAL RAILWAY

341. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Suburban train services of the Central Railway were interrupted during peak hours on the 3rd May, 1967 at Bombay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF SUBSIDY SCHEME TO PAPER INDUSTRY

342. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any study to find out the extent to which the replenishment and cash subsidy scheme introduced for the paper industry has succeeded in helping the industry to keep up the export of paper; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the study?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir; it is too early to assess the contribution made by the new policy in stepping up exports of paper.

ROLLING OF STAINLESS STEEL

343. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to effect certain modifications in the Rourkela Steel Plant for rolling out stainless steel; and

(b) if so, what are the important features?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. M. CHANNA REDDY): (a) and (b) The Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur has started producing stainless steel ingots but the operation of its Blooming Mill and Sheet Mills is expected to be stabilised only by the end of 1968. It has, therefore, been proposed, as an interim arrangement, that the Alloy Steel Plant Durgapur will make stainless steel ingots and press-cog them into suitable slabs which will then be sent to Rourkela for rolling into hot bands of suitable thickness. A trial rolling is expected to take place very soon.

TRAIN FACILITIES ON MADRAS-ARKONAM SECTION

344. SHRI DEVI SINGH:
SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received representations from various quarters for adequate train facilities on Madras-Arkonam Section of the Southern Railways; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes.

(b) An additional pair of trains was introduced on Madras-Trivellore Section from 2nd October 1966. Running of more trains on Madras-Trivellore-