

Outdated and old engines/locomotives

*219. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that according to experts' opinion, railway accidents and derailments are occurring due to use of outdated and old engines/locomotives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these engines or locomotives are run at a speed of 110 to 120 kilometres per hour whereas they are supposed to move at only 70 to 90 kilometres per hour;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to run these locomotives at a speed more than the prescribed speed, permission of Railway Safety Commissioner is required to be obtained; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Accidents or derailments on account of locomotives are very rare and even these do not occur just because a locomotive is outdated or overaged. Road worthiness of locomotives, irrespective of their age, is ensured through day to day upkeep and preventive maintenance. Unserviceable locos are condemned on age cum condition basis and are not allowed to remain in service.

(b) No, Sir. Maximum service speed of locomotive is decided after extensive speed trial by Research Designs & Standards Organisation and clearance of Commissioner Railway Safety and locomotives are never permitted to work beyond that prescribed limit.

(c) No, Sir. Permission of the Commissioner of Railway Safety is required for conducting initial trials of any rolling stock so as to determine its safe speed limit. Once the speed limit is so prescribed, the Railways do not exceed it without further trials with the permission of CRS (Commissioner Railway Safety).

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Centres of AMU in North-eastern States

*220. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has announced establishment of its Centres in other States also;

(b) whether the AMU Act allows opening up of its Centres in North-eastern States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Aligarh Muslim University has decided to establish its Centres at Murshidabad (West Bengal), Malappuram (Kerala) and Kishanganj (Bihar). The legality of this has been challenged in the Court of Law and the case is still pending.

(b) As per provisions contained in Section 12(2) of AMU Act, the University may, with the sanction of the Visitor and subject to the Statutes and Ordinances, establish and maintain such Special Centres, specialised laboratories or such other institutions for research or instruction as are necessary for the furtherance of its objects either on its own or in cooperation or collaboration with any other institution.

(c) Not applicable, in view of (b) above.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Implementation of loan-waiver scheme

†1551. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few years back Government had implemented loan-waiver scheme for farmers to provide economic relief to them;

(b) if so, the total number of farmers benefited under this scheme in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the duration of time within which the scheme was scheduled to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.