

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is wide scope of improvement in railways; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The view that an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority needs to be constituted for inter alia regulating tariff setting on Indian Railways has been articulated in various quarters. Its pros and cons as well as the modalities of constituting such a body, including its composition, role, and responsibilities are being evaluated. The exercise is presently at an exploratory stage and does not yet constitute a proposal for or against the setting up such an Authority.

(c) and (d) Improvement/augmentation of infrastructure and amenities for rail users is an ongoing process. Significant network augmentation, operational improvements and provision of passenger amenities besides technological upgradation and modernization is envisaged in the Twelfth plan period.

Amendment in the collection of Statistics Act

929. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the official figures provided by Government seem to have little or no look with the reality;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking for speedy amendments in the Collection of Statistics Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Government of India has a well-organized system for collection of data. The system is operated through highly trained and skilled personnel at different levels and uses techniques and built-in checks and balances for ensuring data reliability taking in to account all the factors which are relevant for maintaining quality of data collected, compiled and made available to the public.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 has already been notified on repealing the Collection of Statistics Act, 1953. This Act has been implemented in entire country except Jammu and Kashmir with effect from 11th June, 2010. The Collection of Statistics Rules, 2011 framed under this Act has also been notified for systematic and timely collection of reliable and relevant data. This Act has considerably improved and enhanced the ambit and scope for collection of equality statistics/data as compared to the old Act of 1953. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has also enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010 on the line of this Central legislation.

Furnishing of utilization certificate regarding MPLADS Fund

930. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any directive for furnishing of a utilization certificate within a stipulated period by the concerned District Magistrate to the Centre after utilization of MPLADS funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) It has been laid down in MPLADS guidelines that on completion of a work, the Implementing Agency shall quickly finalize the accounts for that work and shall furnish a work completion report and utilization certificate and return the un-utilized balance (savings) and interest thereon within 30 days of completion of work to the District Authority concerned. The District Authority is required to furnish a consolidated Utilization Certificate for the constituency/Rajya Sabha MP every year to the State Government and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report and Accounts (2011-12) of BCPL, Guwahati and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE