

Probe in the publicity works of Railways

1579. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI raided houses of five railway officials for irregularities in the publicity works at railway stations in 2008-09; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBI has confiscated records related to the case from Firozpur Division Office of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No such official communication from Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is available with Northern Railway.

(b) CBI has registered one First Information Report (FIR) on 02.01.2015 and three FIRs on 28.09.2015 in connection with commercial publicity work in Firozpur Division of Northern Railway and has confiscated some records related thereto on Firozpur Division of Northern Railway.

Supply of poor quality ballast in Madhya Pradesh

1580. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways awarded an order of ₹ 2.80 crore to a private company on 20 September, 2013 for supply of 50,000 cubic meter ballast in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that as many as 19 stacks of ballast were found to be of poor quality; and

(c) if so, how the bills have been settled by West Central Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. However, West Central Railway had floated a tender on 20 September, 2013 for supply of 50,000 cum of ballast against which order was placed on 18.03.2014 at a cost of ₹ 2.84 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The testing of ballast was got done by Railway officials as per laid down procedures and bills were passed by West Central Railway as ballast was found conforming to the provisions stipulated in Railway Specifications for Track Ballast. However, samples of ballast have been collected by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from Gotegaon ballast depot on 18th and 19th September, 2015.