

Maintenance of Locos

1443. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C.A.G. is extremely critical in its report for 2003 regarding 'inferior quality of regular scheduled maintenance of Locos';

(b) whether the accident of Golcoonda Express on 2nd July, 2003 was due to failure of brakes; and

(c) if so, whether the loco was hundred per cent fit before it was put on track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The C.A.G's. report (No. 9 of 2003 for the year 2001-02) points out unscheduled repair of locos and lesser number of schedules than arising in some of the diesel and electric sheds. However, the availability and ineffectiveness of locos have been better than the target.

(b) No, Sir. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle is conducting the inquiry. He has mentioned in his preliminary report as provisional finding that the cause is "delayed application of brakes". However, the final report is awaited.

(c) Does not arise.

Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway line

1444. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJr

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways accept the fact that the existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway line has been over utilised;

(b) whether Railways consider to augment the capacity of this line by providing additional track; and

(c) if so, by when this project will be taken up?

[1 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The section capacity is being augmented by introduction of Automatic Block Signalling system in Ahmedabad-Mumbai section. However, in Phase-I, the work of 3rd line from Surat-Kosamba has been included in the Budget, which has been accorded lower priority in view of Automatic Block Signalling work.

Stay orders by caterers and vendors

1445. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details with name of stations (division-wise) on each zonal Railways where the catering/vending contractors have obtained stay orders from different Courts of Law against the decision of enhancement of the licence fee from 3 per cent to 12 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): Court cases on enhancement of licence fees are being contested by the Zonal Railways. The details with name of stations (Division-wise) on each Zonal Railway are not being maintained in Board's office.

Pension plan for railway employees

1446. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted a redefined contribution-based pension-plan for railway employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the new pension plan, and how it is different from the previous pension plan for railway employees and modifications introduced in the new plan, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has accepted that future entrants to Railway service will be governed by a contribution-based pension plan which would be applicable