

[*Translation*]

Earning by Railways

124. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Government from transportation of goods during the year 1993-94 upto January;

(b) whether any profit has been earned from the hike in the freight rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) The Accounts for the month of January 1994 are yet to be closed. However, Goods Earnings during 1993-94 upto January 1994 is estimated to be Rs. 10254.31 crores.

(b) and (c). The estimate of increase in earning from hike in the freight rates is 12.9 percent.

[*English*]

Fall in Rail Passengers Traffic

126. SHRI D. VENKATESEARA
RAO:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway passenger traffic has considerably fallen during the last fiscal year;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the fall in the rail passengers traffic; and

(c) the efforts being worked out by the Government to improve the traffic during the next fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (c). The passenger traffic has fallen during the last fiscal year (1992-93) mainly due to disruption of traffic on account of communal violence, Bomb blasts in Bombay and Calcutta and militant activities in some parts of the country. During the current fiscal year no increase was effected in the second class ordinary fares except marginal adjustments in certain distance. Additional trains were introduced, some services were extended and load of some others increased. AC-3 tier coaches were also introduced by way of attracting more traffic. To make the journey of ticket holding passengers more comfortable, ticket checking was intensified. Availability of tickets in all booking counters was ensured in addition to taking stern action against fraudulent activities.

Seed Development

127. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether policy of Seed Development has been in force since 1st October, 1988; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). The main thrust of the

policy is to provide Indian farmers the best planting material available anywhere in the World to increase productivity. The following quantities of seeds/planting material have been imported since 1988:

Seedlings/Planting Materials Nos.

Seeds (in MT)

Year

1-10-88-89	14,145	4,27,106
1989-90	82,805	7,82,969
1990-91	428,390	33,44,536
1992-93	148,082	25,74,399
1993-94 (Upto October 1993)	124,480	32,36,247