

applications in Railways in area like traction, signalling, communications, In-motion weighing system and providing safety in operations. DOE through its Microprocessor Application Engineering Programme has undertaken the task of generating systems engineering expertise in Indian Railways through training and system engineering project development. A centre has been established at RDSO, Lucknow to cater to the training requirements to technical personal in the area of microprocessor based system development. A number of systems have been developed in collaboration of RDSO, Lucknow and technology transferred to the small scale industry for manufacturing. These systems include microprocessor based track regarding systems, Ride quality monitor, Vibration-cum-Speedometer etc. Apart from this through funding from the technology development programme of DOE Automatic Train Operation system and Train Describer System for Metro railway have been developed.

Computers in Railways :

Computers are being used for online application in Indian Railways. The DOE is actively involved in passenger reservation system at New Delhi which has been commissioned for 30 trains and work regarding including other trains has been taken up. The technical offers for train describer system for Northern Railway are being evaluated with DOE participation. The DOE would be involved in the acceptance and installation of this system.

[Translation]

Prosecution of Indian Plane Hijackers in Pakistan

1437. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the special judge of Lahore (Pakistan) has awarded death sentence to three and life term to seven hijackers of the Indian Plane;

(b) the reaction of Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was a delay of nearly 4 years on the part of Pakistan Government in launching prosecution proceedings against them; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir. In addition, four of the accused in the 1984 hijacking case were acquitted. The Lahore High Court has admitted appeals filed by the convicted persons against their sentences as also an appeal by the prosecution against the acquittals.

(b) The Government of India have noted with satisfaction that the hijackers had been tried and sentenced according to the provisions of Pakistani law. It is hoped that the sentences will be carried out.

(c) & (d) Although the hijackings had occurred in September 1981 and July 1984 respectively, the Pakistan Government commenced the trial in a Special Court at Lahore in March 1985 and April 1985 respectively.

[English]

Stress on Availability of Transport

1438. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is correct that much stress has been laid on maximising the availability of transport in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the purpose for the State of Andhra Pradesh which is the most backward State in country; and

(c) the State-wise break up of fund allocated for the purpose during Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) (a) Yes, Sir.