

**Introduction of New Trains**

143. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced a number of new trains recently, if so, full details in the matter; and

(b) whether Government have also taken steps to increase the present speed of trains and to ensure their punctual running and if so, full facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) In the new time-table which came into force on October 1977, 31 pairs of non-suburban trains were introduced/extended. The following passenger carrying trains have been introduced recently, after the October Time Table had come into force:—

- (i) 59/60 Bombay VT—Howrah Gitanjali Express. Its frequency has since been increased from biweekly to four times a week
- (ii) Puri—Rourkela weekly Express.
- (iii) Delhi—Shadara—Bagpat Road Passenger.
- (iv) Khagaria—Samastipur Passenger.
- (v) 23/24 Bombay Central—Delhi Janata Express extended upto Ferozepur.
- (vi) 109/110 Lucknow—Banda Express extended upto Manikpur.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to increase the speeds of trains. Every possible effort is being made to maintain punctuality. The present average punctuality of Mail/Express and passenger trains during January 1978 is 92.5 per cent.

**Decision to reduce voting age**

144. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRIMATI PARVATI DEVI:

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering favourably the question of reducing the voting age from 21 to 18 years;

(b) if so, at what stage is the consideration of this matter; and

(c) when is it likely to take a final decision on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (c). The question of reducing the minimum age of voting in respect of elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years is under consideration along with other proposals for electoral reforms. As the matter requires careful examination, it is not possible to say when a decision in the matter will be taken.

**Implementation of recommendations of Hathi Committee**

145. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:  
SHRI MANORANJAN  
BHAKTA:  
SHRI VASANT SATHE:  
SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN:  
SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDAR:  
RAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any concrete steps since the last session of Parliament to implement the recommendations of the Hathi Committee Report, as promised in the last session;