

Co-ordinating Committee which is attended by representatives of ship owners, Railways, Customs, Food Department, the State Trading Corporation, Coal Controller, Iron and Steel Controller, Import and Export Controller etc. The recommendations made by this Committee are implemented forthwith wherever possible.

Indian Officials at International Tourist Conferences

*1655. { Shri Inder J. Malhotra;
Shri Bahadur Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of International Tourist Conferences attended by the Government of India's representatives during the last two years;

(b) what were the designations of such officers, deputed for attending these conferences;

(c) the foreign countries where these conferences were held; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange spent by these officers?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 82].

Self-sufficiency in Jute

*1656. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme or schedule has been drawn up for becoming self-sufficient in the production of raw jute; and

(b) if so, the nature and details of the scheme?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. 65 lakh bales of jute and 10 lakh bales of mesta are the target for the Third Five Year Plan period.

(b) Intensive schemes for increasing the out-put of jute have been pro-

vided in the Third Five Year Plan. These schemes include supply of improved seeds, distribution of fertilizers, adoption of improved agricultural practices and better retting facilities for improving the quality of fibre.

Late Running of Trains from Delhi Junction

3572. Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) on how many days in 1960-61 all the mail and express trains started late from Delhi Junction Station;

(b) the minimum and maximum period of late starting; and

(c) steps taken to improve the punctual departure of trains from Delhi Junction Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) During 1960-61, Mail and Express trains had a late start on 749 occasions from Delhi Junction Station.

(b)	Minimum	Maximum
	5 minutes.	275 minutes.

(c) Every endeavour is made to ensure the punctual departure of trains carrying passengers from Delhi Junction Station. Staff are impressed on the imperative importance of running passenger trains in time. Suitable action is taken against the staff responsible for avoidable detentions.

In addition, the following steps have also been taken to ensure punctual departure of trains from Delhi Main Station:

(i) Delhi Yard is being remodelled in order to provide additional facilities for reception and despatch of trains and also for maintenance of rakes.

(ii) Intermediate Block Home Signals have been provided on the Delhi—Ghaziabad section in order to start and receive the trains in quick succession at Delhi Junction.

(iii) Two additional broad-gauge platforms have been provided.