

steel in the country are drawn up by the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel on an annual basis. During the current year, the total demand and the availability of finished steel from the public and the private sector have been projected provisionally as under:

(Qty. In Million Tonnes)

Total Demand	Domestic Availability		
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
26.66	9.05	17.95	27.00

The actual production of finished steel during the period April-May, '98 are as under:

(Qty. In Million Tonnes)

Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1.35	2.49	3.84

(d) After the decontrol of steel in January 1992, prices of steel are driven by market forces. The open market prices of steel have not shown any drastic increase in the past one year.

Fire in Coach and Wagon Factory

2333. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sleepers of lakhs of rupees kept in 'Log yard' were burnt to ashes due to devastating fire in coach and wagon factory in Alambagh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on April 13, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into his incident;

(c) if so, the finding thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. A four member committee of Senior officers has been constituted to conduct inquiry.

(c) The enquiry is in progress and findings are expected shortly.

(D) The following steps are being taken:—

(i) Segregation of the log yard from the workshop area.

(ii) Improve the flooring to prevent growth of grass in log yard area.

(iii) Any further action would be taken based on the recommendations of the enquiry committee.

Delhi Ring Railway

2334. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the utility of the existing ring rail service in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b): Presently, there are eleven EMU services running on Delhi Ring Railway. The utilisation of these trains is 21%. However, no detailed review has been carried out.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of over Bridge at Hathras

2335. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals have been received from various agencies for construction of overbridge at Hathras (Mahamayanagar) between Aligarh - Agra Rajmarg;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a road over bridge in lieu of level crossing at Km. 1296/29-31 near Hathras Railway station has already been sanctioned in 1996-97 for which plan is under approval and estimate has been sanctioned.

(c) Does not arise. Target has not yet been fixed for road over bridge at Hathras.

Plight of Indian Navy

2336. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "But George, the Navy is barely afloat" published in "Economic Times" dated May 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether all the ships operating under Indian Navy are in dilapidated condition; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two-third of Naval Warships is normally kept in operational readiness to permit maintenance to be undertaken. However, the Navy has contingency plans to accelerate maintenance so as to have more ships available, should the need arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of the fleet and suitable additions to the fleet are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction and to make them at par with contemporary fleets of other naval powers. Indian Navy is adequately prepared to meet any threat.

Setting up of Terminal at Veli

2337. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has taken any decision to set up terminal at Veli in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has acquired any land for the above purpose so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the terminal at Veli is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Behala Flying Training Club, Calcutta

2338. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the Behala Flying Club of Calcutta is lying virtually unused for several years;

(b) if so, whether the Government are prepared to take up a plan for the development of the airstrip of the club; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, sir. The airstrip is owned and maintained by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Schemes for Construction of Toilets in Maharashtra

2339. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes cleared by the Government for constructing toilets in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of the cities covered thereunder?