

location for opening of Post Offices depends on merits of each case.

#### **Laying of New Railway Line in Haryana**

6426. COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the projects pending with the Union Government for laying new rail lines in Haryana;
- (b) since when each of these projects is pending;
- (c) the reasons for delay in clearance of these projects; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken to expeditious clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No project for laying new lines in Haryana is pending. However, a survey for regional bye-pass line from Khurja to Rohtak via Palwal-Rewari has been completed.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **New Terminal Building of Vadodara Airport**

6427. SHRI SANAT MEHTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain complaints with regard to new terminal building of Vadodara airport were made to the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to rectify and what steps are yet to be taken;
- (c) whether the central airconditioning system at new air terminal is expected to start functioning; and
- (d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to rectify the defects. Contracts have been awarded to a reputed hotel to operate the restaurant at the airport. The Baggage trolleys have been increased to 150. Security Hold area has been airconditioned. Car parking area will be expanded. Action has been taken to ensure cleanliness and upkeep of the terminal building.

(c) and (d) The central air conditioning system of the terminal building at Vadodara airport is expected to start functioning by the end of June, 1997.

#### **Sub-Standard Material Supplied by SAIL**

6428. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY:

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that rails supplied by the Steel Authority of India cracked up at the site of Maharashtra and Assam;

(b) if so, the details of such quantity;

(c) whether the Government have decided to import rail from foreign countries in view of the sub-standard material supplied by SAIL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and quality of rail proposed to be imported including the name of that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Some rails supplied by Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL) fractured during handling stage at the site of Maharashtra and Assam.

(b) Nearly 32,000 tonnes out of the lots manufactured and despatched during January, 1997 by Bhilai Steel Plant have not been accepted as yet by Railways treating these rails as suspect rails on quality considerations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Diversion of Train to Hubli**

6429. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "PM seeks diversion of train to Hubli" appearing in the Indian Express dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the railway routes are developed according to public demands and not at whims of politicians/bureaucrats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though some public representations were received for diversion of Chennai-Mumbai train via Hubli, no suggestion was received from the then Prime Minister. These were examined and not found feasible.

(c) Train services on the various routes are planned based on public demand, operational feasibility and resource availability.

#### **AI Direct Service to Chicago**

6430. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS:

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased

(a) whether Air India has inaugurated a direct service to Chicago;

(b) if so, the date of inauguration, the capacity and frequency of the service;

(c) whether the Air-India has taken a large number of non-paying passengers/guests/VIPs after the inauguration;

(d) if so, the names of such guests/VIPs alongwith the journey dates and expenditure beared by the Air India as a result thereof;

(e) whether the Air India has also extended hospitality to those non-paying guests/VIPs in Chicago; and

(f) if so, the per head expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Effective 30th November, 96, Air India is operating a twice weekly service to Chicago with B747-400 aircraft.

(c) Air India had taken 59 guests in the above flight after the inaugural.

(d) The first group of 18 guests (listed in the statement-I) travelled on 1.2.97 and the second group of 41 guests (listed at in the statement-II) travelled on 8.2.97. The total expenditure incurred by Air India on board and lodging was approximately Rs. 18.56 lakhs.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The notional value of air fare is Rs.1,06,495/- per person. The total cost of board and lodging was approximately Rs. 05.46 lakhs and Rs. 13.10 lakhs respectively.

#### Statement-I

*Group of 18 Guests Travelled on February 1, 1997*

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	2	3
1.	Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhury	Hon'ble M.P.
2.	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	-Do-
3.	Shri Paban Singh Ghatenwar	-Do-
4.	Shri Gulam Mir Magami	-Do-
5.	Shri P. Namgayal	-Do-
6.	Shri Mahendra Bitha	-Do-
7.	Shri G. Prathapa Reddy	-Do-
8.	Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi	-Do-
9.	Shri T.M. Venkatachalam	-Do-
10.	Shri Sundar Singh Bhandari	-Do-

1	2	3
11.	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	-Do-
12.	Shri Ram Nagina Mishra	-Do-
13.	Shri John Fernandes	-Do-
14.	Shri Sukhdeo Paswan	-Do-
15.	Shri Ramesh Chennithala	-Do-
16.	Shri G.M. Banatwala	-Do-
17.	Shri D.R. Tiwari, Joint Secretary, M/O Parl, Affairs.	
18.	Shri J.B. Gupta, Deputy Secretary, M/O Parl. Affairs.	

#### Statement-II

*Group of 41 Guests Travelled on February 8, 1997*

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	2	3
1.	Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya	Hon'ble M.P.
2.	Dr. Ramesh Chandra Tomar	-Do-
3.	Shri Devi Bux Singh	-Do-
4.	Shri P.C. Chacko	-Do-
5.	Shri K.D. Sultanpuri	-Do-
6.	Shri Anand Ratna Maurya	-Do-
7.	Shri Gnaga Charan Rajput	-Do-
8.	Shri P.s. Gadhavi	-Do-
9.	Shri Uttam Singh Pawar	-Do-
10.	Shri Chandra Bhusan Singh	-Do-
11.	Shri Sat Mahajan	-Do-
12.	Shri V. Pradeep Kumar Dev	-Do-
13.	Shri R. Basangoda Patail	-Do-
14.	Shri A.M. Velu	-Do-
15.	Shri A. Siddaraju	-Do-
16.	Shri Langandula Ramana	-Do-
17.	Shri Prabhu Dayal Kathariya	-Do-
18.	Shri Chaman Lal Gupta	-Do-
19.	Shri Anant Maha Devguda	-Do-
20.	Shri Paras Ram Meghwal	-Do-
21.	shri Vishambar Prasad Nishad	-Do-
22.	Shri Balai Chandra Ray	-Do-
23.	Shri Raja Rangappa Naik	-Do-
24.	Shri Shivanand Hemappa Konjalgi	-Do-
25.	Shri S.S. Surjewala	-Do-

1	2	3
26.	Kumari Saroj Khaparde	-Do-
27.	Shri Virendra Kataria	-Do-
28.	Shri Mo Khan Azmi	-Do-
29.	Shri Bratin Sengupta	-Do-
30.	Shri Satya Dev Singh	-Do-
31.	Smt. Saroj Rani	-Do-
32.	Shri E. Ahamed	-Do-
33.	Smt. Zuhara Ahamed	-Do-
34.	Shri Govindram Miri	-Do-
35.	Smt. Parvati Miri	-Do-
36.	Dr. A.K. Patel	-Do-
37.	Dr. K.P. Ramalingan	-Do-
38.	Dr. P.R.S. Venkatesan	-Do-
39.	Shri Raghavji	-Do-
40.	Shri R.C. Tripathi, Secretary, M/O Pari. Affairs.	
41.	Shri Dhani Ram, Under Secretary, M/O Pari. Affairs.	

#### Projects in North-East Railway

6431. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to experts the projects proposed in Railway Budget during 1996-97 for North-East have been suffering from various drawbacks;

(b) if so, the details of drawbacks;

(c) whether the failure to include the section from New Jalpaiguri to New Bogaigaon on Northeast Frontier Railway for double track is one of the major drawbacks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify the position so that such omission may not lead to serious traffic congestion in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Gauge conversion work from New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Bongalgaon has been included in the budget 1997-98 and will provide an alternative BG route between New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon, serving the purpose of doubling.

#### Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited

6432. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation

Limited has drawn up plans for exploration of minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where Corporation proposes to undertake exploration work;

(c) whether the funds have been sanctioned to the Corporation to undertake the exploration work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Plan for exploration drawn by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) includes drilling 18,00,000 metres, mining 10,000 metres, detailed geological mapping 1200 sq. km., sampling and analysis of 3,00,000 samples. MECL has planned for undertaking exploration in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnatak, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved a 9th Plan provision of Rs. 35 crores for promotional and Rs. 25 crores for capital expenditure (provisional).

#### Silghat-Chaparmukh Railway Service

6433. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silghat-Chaparmukh railway service has been closed since 1993 causing great inconvenience to travelling public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are likely to consider to re-open the said railway line with immediate effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Silghat-Chaparmukh Railway line is existing. The Chaparmukh-Senchoa section has been converted into broad gauge, but Senchoa-Silghat section has not been in operation since 1993.

(c) and (e) Yes, Sir, by the rehabilitation of the track to make it fit for MG rail bus operation in due course.

#### Extension of Railway Level Crossings

6434. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway level crossings at Dairy Farm, Rayalacherum Gate and D.R. Mahal in Tirupati town are likely to be extended;

(b) if so, the width of the proposed extension; and

(c) the time by which the above crossings are likely to be extended?