

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The details of the additional posts sanctioned for the Hindi news pool in Akashwani are as follows:

(1)	Joint Director	- 1
(2)	News Editor	- 3
(3)	Asstt. News Editor	- 6
(4)	Stenographer	- 6
(5)	Peon	- 6
Total		22

(b) Out of these 22 posts, only 3 posts of Assistant News Editor are presently lying vacant.

(c) to (e) : The news bulletins are compiled from the information supplied by multiple sources like Akashwani's own correspondents, national and international news agencies. Some of these agencies operate only in English. The Hindi news pool depending upon their requirement makes use of the translated version. No account is maintained of items prepared from Hindi and English inputs and the percentage thereof.

Missing Wagons

6423. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH:

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has received any representation from the Government of Gujarat and Gujarat Electricity Board regarding missing of wagons since January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of missing wagons; and

(c) the value of claims presented by Gujarat Electricity Board in this regard and the claims settled so far?

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

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

A letter has been received from Government of Gujarat requesting that owing to diversion of Coal rakes meant for Gujarat Electricity Board, their claims for not received coal wagons should be settled early.

Coal rakes booked to one Power Plant are at times diverted to another Power Plant primarily to ensure adequate availability of coal with Power Plants. The claims and counter claims which arise due to such diversions are offset of means of periodical match-adjustment of their due wagons with that of excess wagons delivered.

In case of Gujarat Electricity Board, claims for 38378 coal wagons less received have been received from January 1996 to March 1997. Match delivery of 38159 coal wagons have since been granted to them, leaving a claim for 219 coal wagons only. Instructions have been issued to arrange for match delivery in respect of rest of the cases also. As claims are offset by match adjustment on wagon basis, monetary value of the claims is not maintained.

Re-Schedule of Train Timings

6224. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have re-scheduled the train timings for the trains running between New Delhi and Palwal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no new train has been added in the existing fleet of trains on this route despite the heavy and unmanageable rush of daily passengers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some morning EMU services were rescheduled temporarily from 20.2.97 to 4.3.97.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, a number of peak time EMU services on the section were augmented to 12 coaches. Introduction of new services has not been found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

Post Offices in Mysore

6425. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices of all categories in Mysore district;

(b) the number of villages which are not covered by Post Offices in the above district; and

(c) the number of new post offices opened in the above district during 1996-97; and proposed to be opened during 1997-98, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of post offices of all categories in Mysore District is 605.

(b) The number of villages which are not covered by post offices in the above District is 1355.

(c) No post office was opened in Mysore District during 1996-97.

Post offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. There is a target of opening of 3 departmental Sub Post Offices and 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in Karnataka during the year 1997-98. Allocation of targets is made Circle-wise. The

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