

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Third Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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[Eleventh Series, Vol. VI, Third Session 1996/1918 (Saka)]
No. 2, Thursday, November 21, 1996/Kartika 30, 1918 (Saka)

SUBJECT

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates (English Version)

Thursday, November 21, 1996/Kartika 30, 1918 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 21, 1996/Kartika 30, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have a very serious matter to raise today ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Please sit down for a while... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : We have foreign guests, who are to be introduced. Please sit down.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

11.01 hrs.

**WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
FROM MAURITIUS**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming Sir Ramesh Jeewoolal, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Mauritius and Lady Jeewoolal and the other Members of the Mauritian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are :

1. Hon. Herve Duval
2. Hon. Govindranath Gunness
3. Hon. Yesdev Jeelall
4. Hon. Zeelannee Peerun
5. Hon. (Mrs.) Anne Marie Perrier
6. Hon. Rajman Rampersad

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 20th November, 1996. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of Mauritius.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for the suspension of the Question Hour.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question number 21.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : The Governor of Uttar Pradesh has murdered the democracy ... (Interruptions)

[English]

There has been a brutal murder of the constitution and democracy... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The United Front Government has murdered the democracy, committed flagrant violation of the Constitution and has attempted to utilise all the provisions of the Constitution to prevent the formation of Bhartiya Janata Party Government in Uttar Pradesh. A man defeated by the candidate of the Bhartiya Janata Party is at the helm of affairs. Such a conspiracy is being hatched against the Bhartiya Janata Party. I demand of you to adjourn the Question Hour and take up the adjournment motion given by us regarding the situation prevalent in Uttar Pradesh and the conduct of the U.P. Governor. Please take it up for consideration first and have the Question Hour later.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Sir, this is a serious matter... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let me say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

As far as the question relating to the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the concerned Minister has already gone there for a visit. He will come back and make a statement on the 26th. Today in the Business Advisory Committee meeting we have decided to discuss this matter under Rule 193 on the 26th. So, that disposes of this matter.

As far as the situation in Uttar Pradesh is concerned, if you look at the List of Business for today, under S.No 18, you will see that the Home Minister is going to make a statement on this issue. We will discuss this matter then.

Let us proceed with the Question Hour now.

Question No.21 - Shri Datta Meghe - Not present

Question No.22 - Shri Shivraj Singh

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, these are two different issues.

11.08 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajendra Agnihotri and some other hon Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 12 o'clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Child Labour

*21. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of child labourers in the country, State-wise.

(b) the number of them working in hazardous industries; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to impose ban on the employment of child labourers, particularly in hazardous industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). According to 1981 census, the total number of working children in India was 13.6 million. The state-wise break up of working children is as under :

1. Andhra Pradesh	1,951,312
2. Arunachal Pradesh	17,950
3. Assam	N.A.
4. Bihar	1,101,764
5. Goa	9,378
6. Gujarat	616,913
7. Haryana	194,189
8. Himachal Pradesh	99,624
9. Jammu and Kashmir	258,437
10. Karnataka	1,131,530
11. Kerala	92,854
12. Madhya Pradesh	1,698,597
13. Maharashtra	1,557,756
14. Manipur	20,217
15. Meghalaya	44,916
16. Mizoram	6,314
17. Nagaland	16,235
18. Orissa	702,293
19. Punjab	216,939
20. Rajasthan	819,605
21. Sikkim	8,561

22. Tamil Nadu	975,055
23. Tripura	24,204
24. Uttar Pradesh	1,434,675
25. West Bengal	605,263
26. A and N Islands	1,309
27. Chandigarh	1,986
28. D and N Haveli	3,615
29. Daman and Diu	N.A.
30. Delhi	25,717
31. Lakshadweep	56
32. Pondicherry	3,606

According to the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88 the total number of working children was 17.02 million. It is therefore estimated that presently there would be around 20 million working children. The bulk of child labour is engaged in agriculture and allied employments including house hold occupations. Out of the total child labour population, around 2 million children are estimated to be working in hazardous occupations and processes. The data regarding the working children as per 1991 census are yet to be released by the office of Registrar General.

(c) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in seven occupations and eighteen processes contained in part A & B of the Schedule to the Act. Employers employing children in the prohibited occupations and processes are liable to be prosecuted under this Act. The responsibility for the enforcement of the various provisions rests primarily with the State/UT Governments. The Central Government has been impressing upon the State/UT Governments for the rigorous enforcement of the various provisions of the Act. Apart from the provisions under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulations) Act, 1986 there are other protective legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interest of the working children.

[English]

Strike by P & T Employees

*22. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Group C and D employees of P & T went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an agreement has been reached between the Government and the employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total loss suffered by the Government due to the strike;

(f) the steps taken to clear the Postal backlog accumulated during the strike and the extent to which the backlog has been cleared so far; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Group C & D employees of Departments of Post and Telecommunications as well as Postal Extra Departmental Agents went on strike from 06.00 hours on 23rd October, 1996 and remained on strike till 29th October, 1996. Their demands were : (a) removal of eligibility ceiling for grant of bonus to all Group C and D employees in these Departments, and (b) sanction of justified bonus based on actual traffic for postal employees and payment of full bonus as per revised formula for telecom employees.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However, the Postal and Telecom employees federations and associations formally called off strike on 30th October, 1996. The Government had earlier decided to give Productivity Linked Bonus to all Group 'C' and 'D' employees of the Departments where such bonus is being given.

(e) Total estimated loss of revenue suffered by the Government is approximately Rs. 40.6 crores in respect of Departments of Posts and Telecommunications.

(f) Targets for clearance of Postal backlog accumulated during the strike were fixed. Senior Officers from the Headquarters were deputed to oversee restoration of normalcy in the field and detailed instructions were issued to ensure that the backlog is cleared within the targeted period. The backlog has now been fully cleared.

(g) Full use of existing arrangements for discussion between staff representatives and administration will be continued and all out efforts made to resolve major differences/disputes, as warranted.

[Translation]

Fire at IGIA

*23. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss suffered due to the fire at Indira Gandhi International Airport recently;

(b) the steps taken to meet the losses;

(c) the reasons for this incident and the persons responsible therefor;

(d) whether an enquiry committee has been constituted;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the terms of reference of the committee;

(f) whether the Government are aware of the general criticism against the composition of the above committee;

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(h) whether the above enquiry committee has submitted its report;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The estimated loss to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was approximately Rs. 11 crores.

(b) Claims have been filed with the Insurance Company M/s. The Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi.

(c) to (e). An Enquiry Committee composed of Shri S.K. Dheri, Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service, Shri Sharda Prasad, Additional Commissioner, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Shri J.N. Bhawani Prasad, Chief Engineer (E), CPWD and Shri A.K. Chary, Chief Engineer (E & M), AAI has been constituted with the following terms of reference :

1. to ascertain the cause of fire in Terminal 1A at IGI Airport on the morning of 30-10-1996
2. reasons for the spread of fire
3. availability, adequacy and utilisation of fire detection and extinguishing systems.
4. measures taken to contain the spread of fire and protection of sensitive installations.
5. to assess the extent of the damage caused.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) to (j). The Committee is expected to submit its Report by 30-11-1996.

Minimum Rate of Wages

*24. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to raise minimum rate of wages in the unorganised sector.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the rise in minimum rate of wages by the employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both the State and Central Government are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. However, bulk of the scheduled employment falls under State jurisdiction and the Central Government is responsible only in respect of 40 scheduled employment. The Act provide for periodic revision of minimum rates of wages at an interval not exceeding five years. However, various foras/bodies in the past like Labour Ministers' Conference, Indian Labour Conference etc. have recommended to reduce this period. These recommendations have been communicated to the State Government/UT Administration for necessary action. In the Central sphere, the minimum rates of wages for Employment in Agriculture were last revised on 12-8-92 and for 39 other scheduled employment relating mainly to mining, construction and railway sectors, were last revised on 12-7-94. There is also a provision of variable dearness allowance as part of minimum wages, which is revised every six months as per the variation in consumer price index number. The last revision of variable dearness allowance was made w.e.f. 1-10-96.

The Act also provide for the setting up of an enforcement machinery to seek compliance with the provision of the Act. In the Central sphere, the enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act is secured through the officers of the Central Industrial Relation Machinery. These officers make regular and periodic inspections of the establishment under the Act and take necessary action whenever any violation to the Act comes to the notice. Similarly the States also have an elaborate and grassroot level enforcement infrastructure. The Central Government from time to time advise the State Government/UT administration to take various steps to make the enforcement of the provisions of the Act more effective.

New Scheme for Global Passengers

*25. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new scheme propose to be formulated by Air India to attract more global passengers; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the number of aircraft fleet to offer additional capacity and introduce more flight schedule?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Schemes are launched by Air India from time to time to attract passengers. Some such schemes in existence at present are :

1. Companion free offer for first and executive class passengers on selected routes.
2. Frequent Flyer Programme.
3. Lucky Draw Scheme applicable to all passengers who purchase Air India tickets in India for international journey.
4. Special fare offers on selected routes.

(b) Air India has acquired two Boeing 747-400 aircraft during October-November, 1996 as a part of its fleet renewal plan and to augment capacity. Air India plans to continue renewal of its fleet during the Ninth Plan period.

Plan to Handle Air Traffic

*26. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has worked out a long term plan to handle increasing air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented together with the names of airports where it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Airports Authority of India has worked out plans to handle the increasing Air Traffic across the Indian Air Space and corresponding upgradation in the ground infrastructure facilities like terminal buildings, runways, aprons etc.

(b) and (c). The details of the schemes under implementation/planned for implementation and the time frame by which these are likely to be implemented are given in the enclosed Statements I and II.

STATEMENT - I

Plan to Handle Air Traffic and Aerodromes Facilities at Domestic Airports
(Terminal Building Complexes)

S.No.	Airport	Scope of Work	Existing T/B Pax. Capacity	Enhanced T/B Pax. Capacity	Estimated Cost (Rs in Crores)	Expected Date of Completion	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Agartala	Expansion and Modification of Terminal Building. (T/B)	200	500	18.11	18 months from the date of commencement.	approval stage
2.	Amritsar	Expansion of Terminal Building	i. Dom. Block ii. Intl. Block	i. Dom. 400 ii. Intl. 300	under preparation	18 months from the date of commencement	Planning stage
3.	Aurangabad	i. Const. of New Terminal Building	200	i. Dom 500 ii. Intl. 500	46.57	30 months from the date of commencement	Proposal submitted to OECF, Japan for approval.
4.	Agra	Expansion of Terminal Building	150	500	10.24	Dec. 97	
5.	Bangalore	Construction of New Integrated arrival hall.	700	2000	13.69	Dec 1998	
6.	Bagdogra	Const. of New Terminal Building	200	500	11.43	24 months from date of commencement	Work awarded
7.	Bhopal	Extn. & Modification of T/B.	100	500	3.38	Oct. 97	
8.	Bhubneshwar	i. Const. of New T/B	200	500	13.42	March. 97	
9.	Bhuj	Const. of New Terminal Building	100	500	under preparation	30 months from date of commencement	Planning stage
10.	Calicut	i. Extn. of Terminal Building & Const. of New Intl. Block	600	1000	6.01	Completed	
11.	Coimbatore	i. Const. of New T/B	100	500	4.15	Completed	
12.	Dimapur	i. Const. of New T/B.	300	500	9.65	March. 97	
13.	Goa	i. Expn. of T/B ii. Const. of New Intl. Block	400	1500	11.85	Intl. Completed Domestic Block March. 97	
14.	Guwahati	i. Expn. of T/B.	400	1500	12.45	Arrival Hall Completed	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Hyderabad	i. Const. of INTL. Block Expn. of Terminal Building.	75	3000	43.60	International trm. block completed Domestic block Dec. 97	
16.	Imphal	Extension of Terminal Building	300	600	14.79	March. 99	
17.	Indore	i. Extension of Terminal Bldg.	250	500	7.92	Dec. 96	
18.	Jaipur	i. Expansion & Modification of Terminal Building.	200	500	5.91	Completed	
19.	Jodhpur	Expansion of Terminal Building	100	400	7.63	March. 97	
20.	Kargil	Constn. of new airport for 30 seater aircraft	100	100	18.69	Dec. 98	
21.	Lucknow	i. Expansion of Terminal Bldg.	100	750	14.98	Completed	
22.	Ludhiana	Expansion of Terminal Bldg.	50	100	1.07	Dec. 97	
23.	Nagpur	Const. of New Terminal Bldg.	100	750	10.98	Completed	
24.	North Lakhimpur (Lilabari)	i. Const. of New T/B.	100	500	14.47	32 Months from date of commencement	Work awarded
25.	Patna	Expansion & Mod. of T/B.	200	500	6.08	March. 97	
26.	Port-Blair	i. Construction of New T/B.	200	500	18.87	30 months from date of commencement	Approval stage
27.	Porebandar	Const. of New Terminal Bldg.	50	200	9.52	18 months from date of commencement	
28.	Raipur	i. Expansion & Modification of Terminal Building.	100	400	8.55	May. 98	
29.	Sitchar	Expn. & Mod. of Terminal Bldg.	100	300	3.38	Dec. 97	
30.	Tezpur	Const. of New Terminal Building	50	400	18.60	30 months from date of commencement	Being awarded
31.	Tirupathi	Const. of Terminal Building Tech. Block cum Control Tower	80	250	5.07	Jan. 98	
32.	Vijayawada	Const. of trm. bldg.	50	150	3.00	24 months	Tender to be called

STATEMENT - II

*Plan to Handle Air Traffic and Aerodromes Facilities at Domestic Airports
(Runway & Associated Pavements)*

S.No.	Airport	Scope of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)	Expected Date of Completion	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	Extn. of rwy from 9000' to 11500' & associated works	49.88	24 months from the date of commencement	Estimate under preparation
2.	Aurangabad	Extn. of rwy from 7500' to 9000' upgradation of associated facilities	20.00	30 month from the date of commencement	Planning state
3.	Agartala	Acquisition of land & extn. of rwy from 6000' to 7500' & associated works	40.00	-do-	Land acquisition in progress
4.	Bhubaneshwar	Extn. of rwy to 9000'	12.62	Dec. 1998	Work in progress
5.	Calicut	Extn. of rwy to 9000'	89.88	Dec. 99	Work in progress
6.	Coimbatore	Extn. of rwy from 7500' to 9000'	30.00	30 months from the date of commencement	Planning stage
7.	Dibrugarh	Strengthening of rwy	9.14	Nov. 96	Work nearing completion
8.	Dimapur	Extn. of rwy to 7500'	1.4	Completed	
9.	Goa (CE)	Expn. of apron	8.57	Oct. 97	Work in progress
10.	Guwahati	(a) Expn. of apron	2.53	Sept. 97	Work in progress
		(b) Extn. of rwy to 12,000' & associated works	52.00	30 months from the date of commencement	Land acquisition in progress
11.	Indore	Extn. of rwy from 5600' to 7500'	7.93	Dec. 97	Work in progress
12.	Jammu (CE)	Extn. of rwy & associated pavements including land acquisition	13.00	2 years from date of commencement	Land acquisition in progress
13.	Jaipur	Extn. of rwy from 6000' to 7500'	4.59	Dec. 96	Work in progress
		Extn. of rwy from 7500' to 9000' & strengthening of existing pavements for AB-300	20.00	30 months from the date of commencement	Land acquired. Estimates are being prepared
14.	Jabalpur	Strengthening & Extn. of rwy to 7500'	25.00	24 months from the date of commencement	Tender under evaluation
15.	Mangalore	Construction of new rwy to 7500'	25.00	-do-	Land acquisition in progress
16.	Madurai	Acquisition of land and extn. of rwy from 6000' to 7500'	20.00	-do-	-do-
17.	North Lakhimpur	Extn. of rwy from 5400' to 7500' & associated pavements	13.90	Aug. 98	Work in progress

1	2	3	4	5	6
18	Port Blair (CE)	Extn. & strengthening of rwy from 6000' to 11.000'	49.25	36 months from the date of commencement	Work started by State PWD
19	Raipur	Resurfacing of rwy & extn. of apron	6.92	Aug. 97	Work in progress.
20	Tirupati	Strengthening & extn. of rwy to 7500'	18.66	Completed	
21	Vijayawada	Strengthening of rwy	16.25	Dec 97	Work will be awarded in Feb. 97
22	Udaipur	Strengthening/extn. of Runway to 1500'	5.96	March 97	Work in progress

[Translation]

Derailment of Train

*27 SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether four rear wheels of a passenger coach of 1271 UP-Vindhyachal Express derailed at 4.30 A.M. on September 22, 1996 at the time of entering Sumreri Station situated between Khural and Saugor Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the enquiry and the action taken against the persons found responsible alongwith the loss incurred to railways; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) On 22.9.96, at 4.30 hrs., one trolley of a coach of 1271 Vindhyachal Express derailed at Sumreri station of Katni-Bina section of Jabalpur Division of Central Railway. There was no casualty or injury to anybody.

(c) and (d). An enquiry was conducted by a Committee of Officers which concluded that the derailment took place due to tampering with the Point Stretcher Bar at Sumreri station by some unidentified persons. Cost of damage to railway property amounted to Rs. 31,000/-. This being a case of sabotage, an F.I.R. has been lodged with the Government Railway Police/Sagar under Sections 150 and 151 of the Indian Railways Act.

(e) The following remedial steps have been taken to check recurrence of such incidents :

(i) State Governments have been requested to

initiate measures to check the incidence of sabotage on Railway systems.

(ii) Railway staff have been instructed to exercise greater vigil on unidentified persons to avoid such incidents.

(iii) Renewed stress has been laid on inspections and surprise checks.

(iv) The patrolling of track by RPF at above area was introduced and continued upto 05.11.96. Patrolling by Gangman is still continuing.

[English]

Installation of Transmitters

*28 SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of High Power Transmitters and Low Power Transmitters and Very Low Power Transmitters installed during the last three years, State-wise, location-wise and the expenditure incurred thereon during this period;

(b) whether border districts of Gujarat particularly Saurashtra region is affected by propoganda by Pakistan Television through their High Power Transmitter; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 16 High Power TV transmitters (HPTs), 204 Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs) and 73 Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs) have been commissioned during the period from 1.4.1993 to 20.11.1996 as per Statewise details given in the enclosed Statement. The yearwise total expenditure incurred on various

Doordarshan Projects, including the transmitter projects indicated in the Annexure, during the last three financial years is as under :

Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs in crores)
1993-94	168.22
1994-95	256.55
1995-96	313.60

(b) and (c). Weak and irregular TV signals are reported to be received from Pakistan in parts of Saurashtra-Kachch region of Gujarat. While 3 HPTs and 13 LPTs are already operational in Saurashtra-Kachch region, one HPT and 7 LPTs are presently under implementation in the region to further augment TV service in the border areas of Saurashtra and Kachch. Besides, two additional HPTs and two LPTs are also envisaged to be set up in the region subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

STATEMENT

Statewise List of TV Transmitters
Commissioned during
(01.04.1993 to 20.11.1996)

State/UT	Type of Transmitters	Location of Transmitters
1	2	3
A and N Islands	VLPT	Baratang Havelock Katchal
Andhra Pradesh	HPT	Nandyal
	LPT	Alagadda Atmakur Bheemavaram Emmiganur Gadwal Giddalur Hindupur Hyderabad (DD II) Jagtial Kamareddy Kavali Kosgi Kuppam

1	2	3
		L R Pally Madhira Madnapalli Mandassa Medak Nagar Karnul Narayanpet Nirmal Siddipet Tandur Visakhapatnam Wanaparthy
	VLPT	Chintapalli Ichhapuram Paderu Parwatipuram Sriselam
Arunachal Pradesh	LPT	Itanagar (DD II)
Assam	LPT	Bongaigaon Golaghat Guwahati (DD II) Haflong Hatsinghimari Hojai Lumding Margherita North Lakhimpur Sonari Tinsukia
	VLPT	Digboi
Bihar	LPT	Aurangabad Godda Gumla Hazaribag Lohardaga Nawada Patna (DD II) Raxaul Sheikhpura Supaul
Chandigarh	LPT	Chandigarh (DD II)

1	2	3	1	2	3
Delhi	HPT	Delhi (DD III)	J & K	HPT	Shivbadar Thanedar Veer
	LPT	Delhi (Lok Sabha) Delhi (Rajya Sabha)		LPT	Leh
Gujarat	HPT	Ahmedabad (DD II) Bhuj (Int.)			Jammu (DD II) Kathua Leh (DD II) Riasi Srinagar (DD II) Srinagar (Kashmir Channel)
	LPT	Dandi Devgadh-Baria Dharangadhra Gandhinagar (DD II) Idar Khambat Mahuva Mangrol (Junagarh) Palitana Paper Sanjeli Shamlaji		VLPT	Ardh Kumari Baramula Batot Buddhal Gurez Kalakot Kud Poonch Samba Thanamandi Tithwal Uri
	VLPT	*Devgadh-Baria Netrang	Karnataka	LPT	
Haryana	LPT	Mandi Dabwali (DD II) Meham Rewari			Arsikere Bagalkot Bangalore (DD II) Bhatkal Gangawati Hungond Kumta Mandya Mudigere Pavagada Ramadurg
Himachal Pradesh	HPT	Shimla			Sakleshpur
	LPT	Shimla (DD-II)		VLPT	
	VLPT	Ajhu fort Baijnath Bandla Bharathi Diar Jogindernagar Khara Pathar Palampur Sarkaghat	Kerala	HPT	Calicut (Int.)
				LPT	Calicut (DD II) Chengannur Cochin (DD II) Kanhargarh

1	2	3	1	2	3
		Punalur Trivandrum (DD II)	Mizoram	HPT	Lunglei
	VLPT			LPT	Aizawl (DD II)
Lakshadweep		Devikolam Kanjirapalli			
	LPT		Madhya Pradesh	LPT	
		Kavaratti			Alirajpur Ashoknagar Bhandar Bhopal (DD II) Bijaipur Datia Jaora Khurai Kukdeswar Lahar Maihar Raghogarh Sironj Ujjain
Maharashtra	HPT				
	LPT	Bombay (DD II)			
		Acot Akluj Arvi Brahmapuri Chikhli Chiplun Devrukh Hinganghat Kankauli Karanja Khamgaon Mehekar Mhasle Morshi Nagpur (DD II) Rajapur Rissod Sangamner Umerga Wani Washim		VLPT	Budhni Jaishpurnagar Kondagaon Pakhanjore Parasia
			Nagaland	LPT	Kohima (DD II)
			Orissa	HPT	Cuttack (DD II)
	VLPT			LPT	
		Chikaldhara Junnar Karjat Khed			Athamalik Balidurha Banapur Bhuban Bhubaneshwar (DD II) Bonai Boudh Dashrathpur Deogarh Dhenkanal Dhenkanal (DD II) Dudurkot (DD II) (Hindol) Durgapur
Manipur	LPT				
		Imphal (DD II)			
Meghalaya	LPT				
		Shillong (DD II) Tura (DD II) Williamnagar			
	VLPT				
		Baghmara			

1	2	3	1	2	3
		Udaigiri		VLPT	
		Kamakhya Nagar			Amet
		Kendrapara			Bhim
		Khandapara			Chaumahla
		Kuchinda			Deogarh
		Luther Punk			Fatehpur
		Malkagiri			Kumbhalgarh
		Narsinghpur			Mandalgarh
		Navarangpur			Rajgarh
		Nuapara			Zawar Mines
		Padampur	Sikkim		
		Padmapuram		HPT	
		Pallahara			Gangtok
		Paradeep			
		Rairangpur		LPT	
		Raj Ranapur			Gangtok (DD II)
		Redhakhol			
		Sambalpur (DD II)	Tamil Nadu		
		Talcher		HPT	
		Tirtol			Madras (DD III)
	VLPT				Rameshwaram
		* Bonai		LPT	
		Lalitgiri (DD II)			Arani
		Nayagarh			Arcot
		Patnagarh			Gudiyatam
		Rourkela (DD II)			Krishnagiri
Pondicherry					Marthandam
	LPT				Pudukkottai
					Rajapalayam
Punjab					Udagamandalam
	LPT			VLPT	
		Abohar			Udumalpet
		Jalandhar (DD II)			Valliur
					Valparai
Rajasthan					Vazapadi
	HPT		Tripura		
		Bundi		LPT	
	LPT				Agartala (DD II)
		Bansi	UP		
		Baran		HPT	
		Basava			Mau
		Bhadra			
		Chirawa		LPT	
		Gangapur			Champawat
		Jaipur (DD II)			Etah
		Kota (DD II)			Kanpur (DD II)
		Nokha			Kotdwar
		Ratanagarh			Lalganj
		Rawatsar			Lucknow (DD II)
		Sridungargarh			Muhammadabad
		Sujargarh			Rasra

1	2	3
		Sikanderpur Mau Ranipur
	VLPT	
		Bageshwar Didihat Ghandyal Kaljikkhal
West Bengal		
	HPT	
		Calcutta (DD III)
	LPT	
		Jhargram Kalna Purulya Ranaghar
	VLPT	
		Egra Jhalda

VLPTs commissioned during the above period and subsequently closed consequent upon commissioning of LPTs at these places

[Translation]

Leasing Out of Bailadila

*29 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the formalities in regard to the leasing out of Bailadila Iron Ore reserves to private company at nominal rates have been completed; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Decline in the Growth of Revenue

*30 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been decline in the growth of revenue in Telecom Deptt./telecom circles in the country during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (till date);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for improvement in the growth of revenue;

(d) whether arrears of telephone bills have increased from Rs. 439.82 crore in March, 1992 to Rs. 955.81 crore in March, 1995;

(e) whether some outstanding amount has also been written off;

(f) if so, the details thereof and reasons, therefor, and

(g) the steps being taken to realise/recover the outstanding amount on priority basis to increase the growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no decline in the growth of telephone revenue (Amount Billed for) in the Deptt. as a whole and in Telecom Circles during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and till July, 96 except in J and K Circle where the revenue (Amount Billed for) has decreased during the year 1993-94.

(b) In J and K Circle the telephone revenue has decreased from Rs. 23.14 crores (1992-93) to Rs. 22.37 crores (1993-94). This was due to prolonged disturbances in the state. However, the telephone revenue has increased from the year 1994-95 onwards with the improvement in the situation in the state.

(c) Growth of telecom. revenues remains a predominant concern of the department and measures are introduced from time to time to increase the network utilisation and improve collection efficiency which have been further explained below :

1. The unit have been asked to expedite forwarding of Advice Notes to TRA for timely issue of bills.
2. Timely Revision of rent consequent upon revision of tariff.
3. Regular checking of Telephone Directory.
4. Annual checking of non-directory items.
5. Proper billing of spare numbers.
6. Providing adequate staff strength to TRA.

(d) Arrears of telephone bills have increased from Rs. 419.26 Crore in March, 1992 to Rs. 897.29 crore in March, 1995.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The amount written off during the year 95-96 is Rs. 1.36 Crore and Rs. 2.20 lakhs during 1996-97 (upto July, 96). Reasons for their write off are as given below:

1. Whereabouts of subscribers not known/ financial status of the subscribers not sound.
2. Closure of subscribers firms or concerns.
3. Outstanding involving petty amounts where persuance is considered uneconomical.

4. Non-availability of records.
5. Death of subscribers etc.

(g) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process. Procedures have been laid down for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. In case of non payment the lines are disconnected and legal action is also initiated wherever necessary. In addition the following steps have been taken to reduce the outstanding amount.

1. The collection of telephone bills have been introduced through CTO/DTOs and in addition to Post Offices and TR collection Centre to ensure early recovery of dues.
2. In order to improve collection efficiency Surcharge has been levied for delay in payment of bills.
3. Incentive on Revolving Account Scheme has been enhanced to 12% w.e.f. 1.7.1996.
4. Incentive scheme for recovery of old outstandings, has been further liberalised.
5. Electronic Clearance Scheme for payment of telephone and early accounting thereof has been introduced in Madras Telephones on experimental basis.
6. General instructions have been issued to all circles to adopt monthly billing to heavy callers on experimental basis.
7. Letters from Honble Minister (C) and Chairman (TC) are issued to Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries for clearance of outstandings against the State Government Departments.

Legislation on Agricultural Workers

*31 SHRI BALAJI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce and pass a comprehensive Bill to protect the interests of agricultural workers during the current Session, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The proposed bill is under consideration of Government.

Requirement of Power by Steel Plants

*32. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) the total annual requirement of power of public sector Steel Plants, plant-wise.

(b) the sources from which each Steel Plant gets power to meet its requirements.

(c) whether any Steel Plant has set up its own captive power plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) The total average annual power requirement projected for 1996-97 of Public Sector Steel Plants, and the sources of meeting the same are as under :

Steel Plants	Average Power Requirement (MW) 1996-97	Source of Supply
<i>(A) SAIL Plants</i>		
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	215	MPEB and Captive Generation
Durgapur Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant (DSP & ASP)	128	DVC and Captive Generation
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	160	OSEB and Captive Generation
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	260	DVC and Captive Generation
Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO)	28	DVC and Captive Generation
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	11.1	TNEB
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Limited (VISL)	30.7	KSEB and Captive Generation
<i>(B) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd</i>		
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)	200	APSEB and Captive Generation

(c) and (d). The details of the steel plants having captive generation units, and the details of their generation during the last 3 years are as follows :

Plant	Actual generation (MW)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<i>(A) SAIL Plants</i>			
BSP	92.0	86.8	91.1
DSP	84.8	64.8	65.0
RSP	117.1	114.0	114.8
BSL	150.1	136.6	120.3
IISCO	12.8	14.3	11.9
VISL	—	—	1.7*
<i>(b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.</i>			
VSP	160.5	190.8	195.2

* DG sets commissioned during the year.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

*33. SHRI SOHAN BEER :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the waiting lists of various categories in respect of various Telephone Exchanges in the country, State-wise and district-wise, as on August, 1, 1996;

(b) the target fixed for various categories for providing new telephone connections in the country during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the target has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details are being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) to (d). The targets fixed for telephone connections in the country during each year of last three years and the achievements made are as under. The targets were fully achieved.

Year	(in Lakh Lines)	
	Targets	Achievement
1993-94	11.00	12.28
1994-95	14.00	17.70
1995-96	20.00	21.83

(e) and (f). Does not arise in view of the above as the targets fixed for all the three years were fully achieved.

[English]

Long Range Aircraft

*34. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be please to state :

(a) whether bid to purchase medium capacity long range aircraft by Air India to augment its fleet has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The aircraft under consideration are A340-300 manufactured by Airbus Industries B-777 by Boeing Airplane Company and MD-11 by Mc-Donnell Douglas Corporation. The proposal is at present under consideration of a Sub-committee of the Board of Air India. It is not possible to indicate any timeframe within which final decision is likely to be taken.

ESI Beneficiaries

*35. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industrial workers getting E.S.I. benefit at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the coverage of E.S.I. schemes; and

(c) if so, the number of E.S.I. hospitals/dispensaries proposed to be opened/expanded in the country during Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) At present there are 73.02 lakh insured persons entitled to various benefits under the ESI Scheme.

(b) The ESI Act is extended area-wise. Once the Act has been extended to a particular area, all eligible establishments in that area get covered under the Scheme. The extension of the scheme to a particular area depends on identification of industrial centres which have already come up or centres which have potential for future growth. For this purpose, a prior joint planning by way of a systematic survey by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments is required for opening of additional hospitals/dispensaries before the Act is extended to that area. Identification of such centres is a continuous process. Coverage under the ESI Scheme can also be achieved by enhancing the wage limit. Since 1.4.92 the wage ceiling for the purpose of coverage under the scheme has been Rs.3000/- per month. Since a large number of workers, were going out of the purview of the ESI Scheme because of increase in wages as a result of multiplicity of factors, it is proposed to enhance the wage ceiling to Rs.6500/- per month to recover such employees.

(c) Construction/opening of additional hospitals/dispensaries under the ESI Scheme is need based. Additional hospitals/dispensaries are opened in accordance with the prescribed norms and their construction/opening is not linked to Five Year Plans.

[Translation]

Increase in Price of Steel

*36 SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production cost of steel has increased due to the recent hike in the prices of petroleum, railway freight and coal;

(b) if so, the total percentage of increase in prices during the last six months due to above reasons;

(c) whether steel producing industries have increased the prices of their various steel products;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the wages of workers have also been increased during the above period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the case of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) alone, it is estimated that the hike in prices of petroleum, railway freight and coal since 1.4.96 would have an annual impact of about Rs. 810 crores on the production cost of steel.

(b) to (d). Many steel producing industries have increased prices of various steel products since 1.4.96. SAIL has revised the prices w.e.f. 1.8.96 in order to partly neutralise the impact of increase in production cost, the average increase being Rs.200 to Rs.700 per metric tonne on representative categories.

(e) and (f). In case of SAIL and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), there has been no wage revision since 1.4.96 except for normal increase in salaries and wages on account of promotions, increments, revision in Dearness Allowance, etc.

[English]

Shortage of Wagons

*37. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to meet the growing shortage of wagons;

(b) the estimated requirement of wagons at present;

(c) the sources through which required number of wagons are likely to be acquired; and

(d) steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Procurement of wagons is an annual exercise based on expected materialisation of freight

traffic and efficiency of utilisation. Presently there is no shortage of wagons to meet the requirements of the core sector industries. Railways are taking steps to improve the wagons availability by :

(i) increasing procurement of wagons;

(ii) improving utilisation of assets;

(iii) encouraging customers to buy wagons under 'Own Your Wagons Scheme' (OYWS), etc.

(b) During the current financial year (1996-97), it has been planned to procure 25,000 wagons (in terms of Four Wheeler Units) to meet the demand. In addition 5000 wagons are also likely to be procured under Own Your Wagon Scheme. This will take care of the estimated requirements for the current year.

(c) and (d). For the year 1996-97, out of 25000 wagons, order have already been placed for 18905 wagons (four wheeler units), including 1900 wagons on Railway Workshops. Balance orders are under finalisation through tender.

The bulk of the wagons are procured by the Railways through order placed on Wagon India Ltd., a Joint Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Industry of which wagon building units in Public and Private Sectors are members. In addition, a small quantity of about 2000 wagons (in terms of four wheeler units) is ordered on Railway Workshops. Besides these, developmental orders have also been placed on the following firms by Ministry of Railways:

(i) M/s. Binny, Madras in 1993-94;

(ii) M/s. Sri Ranga Alloys Ltd., Coimbatore in 1995-96;

(iii) M/s. BESCO Ltd., Calcutta in 1995-96;

(iv) M/s. Titagarh Steels Ltd., Calcutta in 1995-96.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

*38. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH :
SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of narrow/metre gauge lines which are being converted into broad gauge at present and proposed to be converted into broad gauge during Eighth and Ninth Plan periods, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have also received proposals from some State Governments and MPs for conversion of narrow/metre gauge lines into broad gauge during the last two years and current year so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Demands have been received from

various MPs for conversion of almost all the MG/NG lines in their constituencies. The lines other than those listed in reply to part (a) of the question are almost all covered in these demands. These lines would be considered when the next phase of the Action Plan is taken up in the IX and X Plan periods.

STATEMENT

(A) (i) The sections in the different Zones which have been completed so far and those to be completed in the 8th Plan are given below

Completed Section	Kms zone	93-94 Completed Section	Kms zone	94-95 Completed Section	Kms zone	95-96 Completed Section	Kms zone	96-97 Completed Section	Kms zone
Delhi-Rewari	83 NR	Bhatinda-Hissar	157 NR	Hissar-Rewari	143 NR	Hariapur-Hospet	67 SCR	Wadsa-Nagbir	28 SER
Laigarh-Merta RD	177 NR	Jaipur-Phulera	55 WR	Phulera-Ajmer	81 WR	Hospet-Swamahalali	60 SCR	Arasikere-Hassan	47 SR
Laigarh-Kolayat	47 NR	Phulera-Jodhpur	261 NR	Rewari-Jaipur	225 WR	Londa-Castlerock	25 SCR	Hossur-Hassan	151 SR
Sawaimadhapur-Jaipur	125 WR	Tumkur-Arasikere	101 SR	Mehasana-Khodiyar	52 WR	Mudkhed-Nanded	23 SCR	Total	226
Nadiad-Kapadvanj	45 WR	Arasikere-Chickjajur	114 SR	Delhi Cantt-DLI/NDLS	14 NR	Nailalung-Dimapur	38 NFR	Works in progress	
Bangalore-Tumkur	59 SR	Narsarsapet-Donakonda	75 SCR	Jodhpur-Jaisalmer	295 NR	Yellahanka-Chickballapur	46 SR		
Mysore-Bangalore	138 SR	Secunderabad-Mehaboobnagar	127 SCR	Chickjajur-Harihar	80 SR	Makrana-Parbatsar	21 WR	Hassan-Holenarsipur	30 SR
Dindigul-Tuticorin	196 SR	Madras-Tambaram	27 SR	Harihar-Hubli	129 SR	Samastipur-Darbhanga	37 NER	Mehsana-Marwar-Ajmer	423 WR
Bangalore-Yellahanka	12 SR	Chickjajur-Chitradurg	16 SR	Hubli-Londa	93 SCR	Giddalur-Nandyal	89 SCR	Guntakar-Nandyal	136 SCR
Guntur-Narsaraopet	46 SCR	Jalna-Parbhani	116 SCR	Londa-Miraj	188 SCR	Gunda Rd-Kottur	50 SCR	Sagauli-Narkatiaganj	59 NER
Bellary-Rayadurg	54 SCR	Gondia-Arjuni	82 SER	Birur-Shimoga	63 SR	Aunrihar-Chhapra	171 NER	Hotgi-Bijapur	97 SCR
Aurangabad-Jalna	64 SCR	Secunderabad-Bolarum	14 SCR	Hubli-Gadag-Hariapur	78 SCR	Yeshwantpur-Salem	46 SR	Castle Rock-Vasco	87 SCR
Parbhani-Parivalginath	63 SCR	Alahabad-Varanasi	126 NER	Alnavar-Amedwadi	26 SCR	Chhindwara-Parasia	28 CR	Furkating-Tinsukia	193 NFR
Burhwal-Mehmoodabad	38 NER	Guwahati-Lumding	181 NFR	Donakonda-Giddalur	84 SCR	Dimapur-Furkating	70 NFR	Tinsukia-Dibrugarh	48 NFR
Kotkapura-Fazilka	80 NR	Mehmoodabad-Sitapur	50 NER	Chickjajur-Chitradurg	16 SR	Guwahati-Kamakhaya	7 NFR	Tinsukia-Lekhapani	63 NFR
Lucknow-Kanpur	59 NR	Merta Rd-Merta City	15 NR	Parbhani-Purna	29 SCR			Mau-Shahganj	99 NER
Mankapur-Katra	30 NER	Daund-Baramati	42 CR	Purna-Nanded	32 SCR			Bangarpet-Kolar	18 SR
Purulia-Kotshila	35 SER	Lalkuan-Kathgodam	29 NER	Arjuni-Wadsa	23 SER			Total	1253
		Patel Nagar-Sarai	3 NR	Muzaffarpur-Raxauli	129 NER				
		Durgapur-Jaipur	8 WR	Lumding-Nailalung	22 NFR				
		Mysore-Ashok Puram	5 SR	Chapermukh-Halbarga	21 NFR				
		Lucknow-Manaknagar	5 NER						
	1351		1619		1805		758		1253

(ii) The 9th plan is still under finalisation and the programme of completion of various sections during this period has not yet been finalised. However, it is anticipated that about 5000 Kms of gauge conversion would be completed during the 9th plan subject to availability of resources

Already Done upto 31.10.96
5759 KMS

Production of Aluminium

*39. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of aluminium produced by aluminium producing units during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the production of Aluminium is sufficient to meet the demand of the country;

(c) if not, whether steps have been taken to increase the production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The quantity of aluminium produced by the Primary Producer of aluminium during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and upto April-October.96 was as under :-

Year	Quantity (In tonnes)
1993-94	4,65,165
1994-95	4,77,801
1995-96	5,29,264
April-Oct'96	2,96,034

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir. However, under the extant Import Export Policy of the Government the Aluminium metal and articles made of Aluminium are under Open General License (OGL). The consumers are free to buy from the domestic market or import the same based upon their commercial judgement. Thus availability of the metal is not a problem.

[English]

Closure of Gold Mines in Karnataka

*40. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mines at Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka;

(b) whether some of the gold mines have been closed down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) There are two mines namely Nundydroog Mines and Mysore Champion Reef Amalgamated mine (MCAM) at Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka.

(b) and (c). Activities in the Mysore portion of the MCAM have been phased out due to exhaustion of economically mineable ore resources.

(d) In the light of the reply given in parts (b) & (c) the question of reviving the Mysore portion of the MCA Mine does not arise. However, the Company has

installed a new ball Mill which has resulted in increased gold production.

Computerised Passenger Reservation Facilities

157. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the railway stations where the computerised passenger reservation facilities are available, zone-wise and location-wise;

(b) the names of the railway stations where the said facilities are likely to be provided zone-wise and location-wise in the near future.

(c) the names of the railway station where the reservation/return reservation facilities are available, zone-wise and location-wise, and

(d) the names of the railway stations where such facilities are likely to be provided, zone-wise and location-wise in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The names of the railway stations where the computerise passenger reservation facilities are available, zone-wise and location-wise :

Central Railway

Bhopal	Amaravati	Gwalior
Bhusawal	Mumbai CST	Agra Cantt.
Nasik	Lonavala	Morena
Jalgaon	Pune	Mathura
Khandwa	Jabalpur	Faridabad
Itarsi	Katni	Nagpur
Akola	Satna	Sholapur
Manmad	Jhansi	Gulbarga
Habibganj	(Satellite location in Bhopal)	
Pune CBO	(Satellite location in Pune)	
Raviwarpeth	-do-	
Khadki	-do-	
Pune Cantt.	-do-	
Mandan Mahal	(Satellite location in Jabalpur)	
Kurla Terminus	(Satellite location in Mumbai)	
Thane	-do-	
Kalyan	-do-	
Belapur	-do-	
Raja Ki Mandi	(Satellite location in Agra)	

Eastern Railways

Asansol	Danapur	Bhagalpur
Raniganj	Dhanbad	Jamalpur
Durgapur	New Koilaghat	Mughalsarai
Patna	Bolpur	Gaya
Malda Town	Shillong	Port Blair
Mahendrughat	(Satellite location in Patna)	
Old Koilaghat	(Satellite location in Calcutta)	
Baghabazar	-do-	
Sonarpur	-do-	
Jadavpur	-do-	
Sheoraphuli	-do-	
Salt Lake	-do-	
Chowringee	-do-	
Fairlie Place	-do-	
Howrah	-do-	
Bally	-do-	
Sealdah	-do-	
Rabindrasadan	-do-	
Dum Dum	-do-	
Bidhan Nagar	-do-	
Majerhat	-do-	
Tollygunj	-do-	
Ballygunj	-do-	

North-Eastern Railway

Muzzafarpur	Kathgodam	Siwan
Barauni	Basti	Mau
Samastipur	Gonda	Deoria Sadar
Gorakhpur	Badshahnagar	Chhapra
Hajipur	Darbhanga	Manduadih
Izzatnagar		

Northeast Frontier Railway

Alipurduar	Katihar	Dibrugarh
New Coochbehar	Guwahati	Tinsukia
Siliguri	Silchar	Dimapur

Northern Railway

Allahabad	New Delhi IRCA	Jaisalmer
Aligarh	Ferozepur	Lucknow
Ambala	Hisar	Varanasi
Chandigarh	Jammu Tawi	Kanpur
Kalka	Ludhiana	Faizabad
Shimla	Amritsar	Rai Bareilly
Bhatinda	Jalandhar City	Moradabad
Saharanpur	Pathankot	Haridwar
Bikaner	Srinagar	Dehradun
Sriganganagar	Jodhpur	Bareilly

Bhiwani	Mussoorie CBO	Meerut City
Chandigarh Station	Patiala	Deoband
Delhi Cantt	(Satellite location in Delhi Area)	
Delhi Main	-do-	
International Tourist	-do-	
Bureau, New Delhi Station		
Nizamuddin	-do-	
Sarojini Nagar	-do-	
Kirti Nagar	-do-	
Shahdara	-do-	
Karkardooma	-do-	
New Azadpur	-do-	
Parliament House	-do-	
Okhla	-do-	
Supreme Court	-do-	
IGI Airport	-do-	
Ghaziabad	(Satellite location of Delhi)	
Noida	-do-	
Prayag	(Satellite location of Allahabad)	
Rawatpur	(Satellite location of Kanpur)	

South Central Railway

Guntakal	Kolhapur	Khammam
Tirupathi	Bellary	Warangal
Raichur	Nanded	Vijayawada
Dharmavaram	Aurangabad	Kakinada Town
Puttaparthi CBO	Jalna	Guntur
Hubli	Parbhani	Tenali
Madgaon	Secunderabad	Eluru
Vasco-Da-Gama	Nellore	Bhimavaram Town
Miraj	Narasapur	Ongole
Sangli	Kazipet	Rajahmundry

Tirumala Hills	(Satellite location in Tirupathi)	
Ameerpet	(Satellite location in Secunderabad)	
Hyderabad	-do-	
Kacheguda	-do-	
Dar Ul Shafa	-do-	
Boiguda	-do-	
Kukatpally	-do-	
Dr. A.s. Rao Naar	-do-	
Saroornagar	-do-	

South Eastern Railway

Bokaro	Tatanagar	Puri
Purulia	Rourkela	Berhampur
Ranchi	Chakradharpur	Sambhalpur
Bilaspur	Kharagpur	Waltair

Durg Bhubaneshwar
Raipur Cuttack

Southern Railway

Bangalore City	Palghat	Trichy
Madras Moore Market	Mangalore	Pondicherry
Chidambaram	Cannanore	Kumbakonam
Katpadi/Vellore Town	Calicut	Mayiladuturai
Madurai	Quilon	Kottayam
Tirunelveli/Tuticorin	Coimbatore	Thanjavur
Dindigal	Salem	Trivandrum
Rameshwaram	Erode	Ernakulam
Virundungar	Tellicherry	Trichur
Mysore	Tiruppur	Alwaye
Nagappatinam/Nagore	Chennganur	
Bangalore Cantt.	(Satellite location in Bangalore)	
Egmore	(Satellite location in Madras)	
Mambaram	-do-	
Madras Beach	-do-	
Tambaram	-do-	
Avadi	-do-	
Coimbatore North	(Satellite loation in Coimbatore)	

Western Railway

Ajmer	Jamnagar	Ratlam
New Bhuj	Bhavnagar	Ujjain
Gandhidam	Surat	Indore
Abu Road	Jaipur	Vadodara
Udaipur City	Alwar	Anand
Falna	Kota	Ahmedabad
Rajkot	Agra Fort	
Padmavati CBO	(Satellite location in Vadodara)	
Pratapnagar	-do-	
Gandhinagar	(Satellite location in Ahmedabad)	
Maninagar	-do-	
Gandhigarm	-do-	
Churchgate	(Satellite location in Mumbai)	
Mumbai Central	-do-	
Andheri	-do-	
Borivili	-do-	

(b) The details of computerised reservation offices which have been approved in the Annual Plan 1996-97, including some works in progress from the previous year, are enumerated below :

Central Railway

PRS at Bina
PRS at Ahmednagar

PRS at Saugor
PRS at Wardha
PRS at Ghatkopar (Satellite Mumbai)
PRS at Ajni (Satellie of Nagpur)
PRS at Chinchwad PRS (Satellite of Pune)
PRS at Shankarsheth -do-

Eastern Railway

PRS at Barddhaman
PRS at Baharampur (Satellite of Calcutta)
PRS at Krishnanagar -do-
PRS at Bandel -do-
PRS at Kalyani -do-
PRS at Naihati -do-
PRS at Barasat -do-
PRS at Patna Sahib (Satellite of Patna)
PRS at Rajendranagar -do-

South Central Railway

PRS at Cuddapah
PRS at Benz Circle (Satellite in Vijayawada)

North Eastern Railway

PRS at Lal Kuan
PRS at Nainital
PRS at Darbhanga*
PRS at Izzatnagar*
PRS at Sonpur
PRS at Hajipur*
PRS at Varanasi City (Satellite)
PRS at Allahabad City (Satellite)
PRS at Lucknow City Station (Satellite)

Northern Railway

PRS at Modinagar
PRS at Panipat
PRS at Shakurbasti (Satellite of Delhi)
PRS at Gurgaon -do-
PRS at Lajpat Nagar -do-
PRS at Sarai Rohilla -do-
PRS at Prayag * (Satellite of Allahabad)
PRS at Charbag (Satellite of Lucknow)
PRS at Tourist Bureau Jodhpur (Satellite)
PRS at Mahamandir Jodhpur (Satellite)

Southern Railway

PRS at Shencottah
PRS at Alleppey

PRS at Mettupalayam
 PRS at Nagercoil
 PRS at Kanyakumari
 PRS at Madras Luz Corner (Satellite)
 PRS at Madras St. Thomas (Satellite)
 Mount
 PRS at Madras Mount Road (Satellite)
 PRS at Coimbatore City (Satellite)
 PRS at Madurai City (Satellite)
 PRS at Jayanagar (Satellite of Bangalore)

Western Railway

PRS at Mhow
 PRS at Bharuch
 PRS at Navasari
 PRS at Valsad
 PRS at Nadiad
 PRS at Bandra (Satellite of Mumbai)
 PRS at Vasai Road -do-
 PRS at Virar -do-
 PRS at Dadar -do-
 PRS at Gandinagar (Satellite of Jaipur)

South Eastern Railway

PRS at Gondia
 PRS at Bankura
 PRS at Adra
 PRS at Vizianagaram
 PRS at Jharsuguda
 PRS at Bokaro Steel City (Satellite)
 PRS at M.V.P. Colony (Satellite of Visakhapatnam)
 PRS at Gajawaka -do-
 PRS at Itwari (Satellite of Nagpur)
 PRS at (Satellite of Bhubaneswar)
 Chandrasekharpur
 PRS at Rourkela (Satellite)
 PRS at Shalimar (Satellite of Calcutta)

(Non Rail-head State Capitals)

PRS at Agartala
 PRS at Kohima
 PRS at Gangtok
 PRS at Aizawl
 PRS at Itanagar
 PRS at Imphal

* Indicates locations where PRS facilities since commissioned.

(c) The location where connectivity has been provided to more than one system are enumerated below.

Locations of the computerised PRS	Systems with which connected
1	2
Central Railway	
Bhopal	Delhi, Mumbai
Agra Cantt.	-do-
Gwalior	-do-
Jhansi	-do-
Mumbai CST	Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Secunderabad
Pune	-do-
Nagpur	-do-
Jabalpur	Delhi, Mumbai
Kalyan	-do-
Bhusawal	-do-
Thane	-do-
Solapur	Mumbai, Madras, Secunderabad
Gulbarga	Mumbai, Madras
Eastern Railway	
New Koilaghat	Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai, Madras, Secunderabad
Old Koilaghat	Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai, Madras
Patna	-do-
Fairlie Place	Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai
Howrah	Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Mumbai, Secunderabad
Sealdah	-do-
Dhanbad	Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Mumbai
Asansol	Calcutta, Delhi
Danapur	-do-
Northern Railway	
New Delhi (IRCA)	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras and Secunderabad
Allahabad	-do-
Lucknow	-do-
Varanasi	-do-
Parliament House	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras
Delhi Main	-do-
Sarojini Nagar	-do-
Kirti Nagar	-do-

1	2
Karkardooma	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras
Hazrat Nizamuddin	-do-
Kanpur	-do-
Dehradun	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta
Amritsar	Delhi, Mumbai
Jammu Tawi	-do-
Jodhpur	-do-

North Eastern Railway

Gorakhpur	Delhi, Mumbai
Muzaffarpur	Delhi, Calcutta
Hajipur	-do-
Darbhanga	-do-

Northeast Frontier Railway

Guwahati	Calcutta, Madras, Secunderabad
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Southern Railway

Madras Moore Market	Madras, Delhi, Calcutta Mumbai, Secunderabad
Bangalore	-do-
Trivandrum	-do-
Mysore	Madras, Delhi, Mumbai
Coimbatore	-do-
Bangalore Cantt.	-do-
Ernakulam Junction	-do-
Madurai	-do-

South Central Railway

Secunderabad	Secunderabad, Delhi, Madras, Calcutta
Hyderabad	-do-
Vijayawada	-do-
Kacheguda	Secunderabad, Mumbai
Kolhapur	-do-
Vasco da Gama	-do-
Madgaon	-do-
Sangli	-do-
Miraj	-do-
Nanded	-do-
Aurangabad	-do-
Guntakal	-do-
Raichur	-do-
Tirupati	Secunderabad, Madras
Vijayawada	Secunderabad, Mumbai, Madras, Calcutta

1	2
Hubli	Secunderabad, Mumbai, Madras
South Eastern Railway	
Tatanagar	Calcutta, Delhi
Visakhapatnam	Calcutta, Madras, Secunderabad
Kharagpur	-do-
Bilaspur	-do-
Bhubaneswar	Calcutta, Delhi, Secunderabad

Western Railway

Ajmer	Mumbai, Delhi
Kota	-do-
Jaipur	-do-
Vadodara	-do-
Borivili	-do-
Indore	-do-
Udaipur	-do-
Ahmedabad	Mumbai, Delhi, Madras
Mumbai Central	Mumbai, Delhi, Madras, Secunderabad
Churchgate	Mumbai, Madras, Delhi, Calcutta
Surat	Mumbai, Madras

(d) This facility has been provided at a limited number of locations where very heavy workload of reservation related transactions is being handled. Due to certain technological constraints, the expansion of this facility at present is restricted by the number of terminals of one Computerised Passenger Reservation System which can be operated at locations on another System. Therefore, this problem would be sought to be resolved, and the facility of onward and return journey reservation made available at all locations where computerised reservation facilities are available, by the networking of the five main Systems at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras and Secunderabad. The software for introducing networking arrangements is at present being developed.

[Translation]

Lackness of potable water at various Stations of Uttar Pradesh

158. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Agra, Firozabad, Mathura and Etah Railway stations in Uttar Pradesh have no proper arrangements of potable

water as a result passengers have to face great difficulties.

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any scheme for providing the potable water on the said Stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Adequate potable water supply arrangements commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic already exists at Agra Cantt, Firozabad, Mathura and Etah Railway stations. Augmentation of the existing arrangements will be considered whenever so warranted.

Profit/Loss in Bokaro Steel Plant

159. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) the expenditure incurred on setting up of Bokaro Steel Plant and its capital cost at present;

(b) the amount spent after the said Plant became operational; and

(c) the loss and profit of the above Plant during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) of SAIL with an annual capacity of 1.7 million tonne of ingot steel was set up at a cost of Rs. 981.34 crore.

The present capital cost of this steel plant (Gross block plus capital work in progress) as on 31-3-1996 is estimated at Rs.5463.56 crore.

(b) The total amount spent (upto 1.7 million tonnes and including the further expansion to 4 million tonne) till 31-3-1996 is estimated at Rs. 4540.69 crore.

(c) The profit of BSL for the 1st three years is given below

Year	Profit (Rs. in crore)
1993-94	468
1994-95	662
1995-96	806

Number of Post Offices in Bihar

160. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN Alias PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices and Telegraph Offices

operating from their own premises and from rental premises in Bihar, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of new Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices and Telegraph Offices likely to be opened in the State during 1996-97, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide postal facilities in every Panchayat Headquarters of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of residential colonies in the State for Postal and Telegraph employees, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) *Department of Post & Telecom*

The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) *Department of Post :*

The information is being collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Department of Telecom :

Six (6) number of Telegraph Offices are likely to be opened as under :

1. Kodarma 2. Chatra 3. Lakhi Sarai 4. Pakur
5. Sheohar 6. Shekhpura

(c) to (e) *Department of Post & Telecom :*

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Introduction of Trains From Calcutta

161. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to fulfil the demand of the people of North Eastern States to introduce more trains from Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the trains from Calcutta have to be extended to Dimapur; and

(d) if so, the time by which the trains are likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Introduction of trains on Indian Railways is a continuous process depending upon traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability. Frequency of 3045/3046 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express has been increased from weekly to tri-weekly with effect from 1.10.96.

(c) and (d). 5659/5660 Sealdah-Guwahati Kamrup Express is proposed to be extended after the completion of gauge conversion works and development of terminal facilities at Tinsukia/Dibrugarh Town.

Kabithirtha Churulia Under Asansol

162. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 40 persons have applied for telephone connections from Kabithirtha Churulia under Asansol Telephone Exchange;

(b) whether the Nazrul Academy have offered a room for the proposed Telephone Exchange; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A new Telephone Exchange has been planned to be opened at Churulia during 1997-98.

[Translation]

Derailment of Trains

163. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of passenger trains/express trains/goods trains derailed in the NCT of Delhi, location-wise during the last three years till date;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in respect of each case of derailment

(c) if so, the details of the inquiry in respect of each case of derailment during the above mentioned period, and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken so far by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There were 13 derailments at different locations in the NCT of Delhi during the period 1.4.1993 to 31.10.1996. Of these, 1 involved an express train, 2 passenger trains and the rest were goods trains.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Once accident each was inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety, Senior Administrative Grade Officers, and Assistant officers. The remaining 10 accidents were inquired into by committees of Junior Administrative Grade Officers.

(d) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under :

1. The work of track circuiting has been

accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.

2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal from being lowered till the starter and the advance Starter, lowered for the previous train, have been put back to 'ON' position.
3. Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train has already been commissioned on Bombay sub-urban sections.
4. Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.
5. The track is maintained by Tie-Tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.
8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
9. Training facilities for drivers, guards and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.
10. Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge is found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

[English]

Over Bridges at Railway Crossings

164. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that over-bridges at Liluah, Dankuni and Mourigram railway crossings are urgently needed;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware of the fact that the people of these areas are agitating for the construction of over bridges; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to construct over bridges at above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Railways construct Road Over/Under Bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossing on cost sharing basis, the proposals for which are sponsored by the State Govt. concerned duly agreeing to share the cost of construction. No such proposal has been received for Road Over Bridge at Dankuni, construction of Road Over Bridge at Liluah is a sanctioned work. Railway will start construction work on Bridge proper after State Govt. takes up work on approaches. Proposal for construction of Road Over Bridge at Mourigram in lieu of Level crossing No K10/23-25 is under planning with State Govt.

International Flights from Calcutta

165. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to operate more international flights from Calcutta;

(b) whether any discussions were held during this year with any foreign countries to increase Air India's flights or to increase flights of foreign airlines from Calcutta; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The Government of India is offering various incentives to foreign airlines to operate to Calcutta like the ability to combine Calcutta with other prime gate ways, liberal fifth freedom rights, liberal terms of commercial agreements etc. During the year 1996, Calcutta has been offered as a point of call to the designated airlines of Armenia, Switzerland and Slovak Republic. Australia was granted facility to combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai with effect from 16.10.1996. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Amenities to Passengers at Bally Halt Station

166. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide drinking water, shed, sitting arrangement, urinal, latrin, proper lighting at Bally Halt station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the delay to provide minimum passengers' amenities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Bally is a suburban station of Calcutta and is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled. Adequate seating

arrangements, drinking water, toilets and foot-over-bridge are available. The station is also electrified.

Earnings from Plassey Railway Station

167. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the earnings from Plassey railway station during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and upto September, 1996;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum amenities like drinking water, sheds, sitting arrangements and toilets, etc. to this station;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are also being taken to attract more tourists towards this place;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for neglecting this station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Total earnings at Plassey railway station during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 & upto September, 1996 are Rs.14 lakhs, Rs.17.02 lakhs, Rs.22.37 lakhs & Rs.10.35 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Plassey railway station is equipped with following amenity items :-

(i) 3 handpumps

1 footover bridge

1 gents waiting room

1 ladies waiting hall

6 Urinals

(ii) Sitting arrangements in Platform No 1 -3.

(iii) Shed on Platform No.1.

(d) to (f). Development of tourism in each state is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. The Deptt. of Tourism, Govt. of India extends financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for various/specific schemes based on the proposals received from them subject to the availability of funds and interse priority. So far as Plassey is concerned, neither have the Deptt. of Tourism nor the Railways received any scheme or demand from the State Government or some other agency for developing this as a tourist spot.

Introduction of Express Train between Sealdah and Murshidabad

168. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the

demand of the people of West Bengal to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad in the morning.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said train to be named as Siraj Express; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay to introduce such train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). some representations have been received from MPs of the area.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train from Sealdah to Murshidabad due to operational including line capacity and terminal constraints besides resources constraints.

Air India flights

169. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Qatar a Gulf country has refused permission to Air India flights to land there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Qatar Airways were operating their services to India under an ad-hoc entitlement which was bilaterally agreed for a limited period. When this ad-hoc entitlement was not extended, the Civil Aviation Authorities of Qatar refused permission to Air India to operate their services to Doha with effect from 20th and 23rd April, 1995. The matter was taken up at diplomatic level and the permission for Air India's operation to Doha was restored on 23.4.1995. During the period between 20th and 23rd April, 1995 only one scheduled flight of Air India was disrupted.

Daily running of Saraighat Express

170. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the demand of the people of Assam to run the Saraighat Express (Howrah-Guwahati) daily instead of tri-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). Some representations have been received in this regard. Running of Saraighat Express

daily is at present not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Amenities to Passengers at Garifa Railway Station

171. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers of Garifa Railway station have made a representation to the Railway Authorities for providing minimum passenger amenities and improvement of the said station.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that minimum passenger amenities are not available at this station;

(c) whether the Government propose to improve it due to heavy increase in earning from this station;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to beautify this station like Hooghly Ghat station?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic exist at the station. At a measure of further improvement provision of platform shelter and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned. Work of repairs/white washing, repairs to platform fencing & stair case have been taken up to give a facelift.

AIR projects in Kerala

172. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any developmental Projects proposed to be set up in Kerala during 1996-97 by All India Radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). the details of the schemes proposed as part of 8th Five Year Plan are given below:

Location	Scheme
1	2
Trivandrum	New Type IV Studio
Trivandrum	Commercial Broadcasting Service - Replacement of 1 KW MW Transmitter with 10 KW FM Transmitter.

1	2
Alleppey	Upgradation and Replacement of 100 KW MW Transmitter to 200 KW MW power.
Manjeri (Mallapuram)	Local Radio Station with 1 KW MW Transmitter. Multi-Purpose Studio and Staff Quarters

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Tracks

173. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify the railway track from Mughalsarai to Guwahati keeping in view the shortage of petrol and diesel in the country.

(b) if so, by when, and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Section Mughalsarai-Rampur Dumra-Barauni is part of Mughalsarai-Patna-Sitarampur electrification project. Electrification of entire section is targetted for completion by March, 99. There is no proposal at present to electrify Barauni-Guwahati section.

[English]

Export of Manpower to Brunei

174. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the agencies engaged in selection of candidates and export of manpower to Brunei;

(b) the terms and conditions imposed by the Government on these agencies for selection of candidates.

(c) whether the Government are aware of some illegal transactions connected with such export of manpower by luring unemployed Indians by such illegitimate agencies/persons; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Every Recruiting Agent registered with the Ministry of Labour or a project Exporter after obtaining permit, can carry out recruitment for export of manpower to any foreign country including Brunei.

(b) Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour for this purpose and the project Exporters are

required to furnish employment agreement, demand letter and power of attorney duly attested by the Indian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam.

(c) and (d). Complaints against unauthorised functioning of Recruiting agents are investigated for further legal action as per provisions of Emigration Act, as & when received.

Railways Line in Sunderban Area

175. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay down railway lines in the Sunderban area, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Construction of a new line from Lakshmikantapur to Namkhona (47 kms.) has been taken up. Lakshmikantapur to Nischintpur (21.95 kms.) has already been completed. The remaining work would get completed in the coming years.

T.V. Relay Centre in West Bengal

176. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing Doordarshan projects in West Bengal;

(b) the number of projects likely to be completed during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the present status and financial provisions made therefor; and

(d) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government from West Bengal and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Seven Doordarshan projects, including two studio projects, are presently under implementation in the State of West Bengal.

(b) and (c). While installation of TV Studio, Jalpaiguri and Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) at Farkka and Murshidabad (DD-2) are technically ready and await commissioning pending sanction of staff, LPTs at Ryna, Rasanti and Bishnupur are expected to be completed by the end of 1996-97 at a cost of approximately Rs.1.00 crores each. The permanent Studio set up at Shantiniketan is expected to be completed by the end of 1997-98 at an approved cost of Rs. 181.75 lakh. The approved cost of TV studio, Jalpaiguri is Rs.451.09 lakh.

A provision of Rs.258.47 lakh had been kept in Doordarshan's Annual Plan 1996-97 for these projects.

(d) Requests are received from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in the States. Such requests are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and inter-se priorities, while finalising locations for Doordarshan projects which is continuous activity.

Stoppages at Railway Stations in Thiruvananthapuram District

177 SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Railway Stations in Thiruvananthapuram District having large number of passenger traffic are still deprived of stoppages for some Express trains.

(b) if so, whether there is any demand for the stoppage of the Vanchinad Express at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram and for the stoppages of Madras Mail and Day Express at Chirayinkil and Kadakavur alternatively.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Vanchinad Express, Madras Mail, Parasuram Express and the Inter-city Express are being side-lined for crossings at the said stations; and

(d) if so, the demands for stoppages at the said stations have been met with so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Additional stoppage of a mail/express train is provided keeping in view the traffic at a station as well as to maintain the fast character of the train in the interest of the through passengers.

(b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) All these trains are not scheduled to be detained for crossing at Verkala, Kadakavur and Chirayinkil. However, on a day to day basis due to operational exigencies some of these trains do get detained for crossing.

(d) Examined but not found justified.

Telephone Charges

178. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telephone Department is examining the option of reverting to the original time-table when quarter charges were available from 10 p.m. and not 9 p.m.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government are aware that the upgrading and modernising both switching and transmission technology, the bottleneck experienced at present by the subscribers during 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. can be reduced to much extent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The feasibility of changing the time-table of concessional period is being examined. This is being done based on technical, economic and traffic studies.

Provision of Modern Facilities at Howrah Yard

179 SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum amenities are not available at Howrah Yard and employees are working in almost unhygienic conditions there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate modern facilities at Howrah Yard and to improve working condition of employees?

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

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

CEMP Council for Employment of Indian labourers abroad

180. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to promote the employment of Indian Labourers abroad;

(b) if so, the function of the Council;

(c) the details of the composition of the Council; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). A proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to render promotional and advisory services is under examination of Government. Question of setting a time schedule for this purpose will arise only if a decision to set up the proposed council is taken dependent upon other concerned Ministries/Departments of Government agreeing to it.

Staff Quarters of AIR/Doordarshan in Assam

181. DR JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction work of staff quarters of AIR/Doordarshan in Guwahati.

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received from AIR and Doordarshan staff of Guwahati in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Representations are being received from time to time from various sources, including AIR/DD staff, for construction of staff quarters and these are implemented on merit subject to availability of requisite infrastructure facilities, financial resources and inter-se priorities. 109 staff quarters are available at AIR, Guwahati. 4 additional staff quarters have been completed, 27 Nos. are under construction of which 12 Nos. are expected to be completed by March, 97 and the remaining 15, civil works are in progress. Doordarshan also plans to construct staff quarters in Guwahati. Site for the said construction has been taken over. However, scheme is yet to be sanctioned. Normal lead time for completion of a project of this magnitude is 3-4 years after the scheme is sanctioned.

[Translation]

Demand of Quota in RAC by Members of Maharashtra Legislature

182. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Members of Maharashtra Legislature have demanded quota in Reservation Against Cancellation during their rail journey; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Committee of Privileges of Maharashtra Legislative Council in their report recommended that while allotting berths to the passengers on RAC (Reservation Against Cancellation) Members of Legislature should be given priority irrespective of their number of waiting list.

(b) Giving preference to the Legislators over the general passengers in RAC is not considered advisable since it would raise the question of discrimination in

allotment of accommodation which is open to all in turn. However, instructions already exist that the Legislators when boarding trains at the last minute should be afforded the facility of travel and allotment of accommodation if it is available.

[English]

Telecast Rights to Star T.V.

183. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the terms and conditions for allowing the telecast rights to the Star TV, and

(b) its impact on the programmes of the Doordarshan at present being telecast from the various T.V. Stations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Doordarshan has not offered any telecast rights to the Star TV.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

F.M. Band of AIR in Madhya Pradesh

184. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the broadcast range of All India Radio, Betul City in Madhya Pradesh is limited to Betul district only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide FM band to cover the more areas;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to make available such radio sets with FM band to the panchayats in the State; and

(e) if so, the number of such radio sets provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The entire district of Betul is covered by 6 KW FM Transmitter (Local Radio Station) at Betul.

(c) Twelve FM station/channels have been commissioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh during Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans period. A 10 KW FM Transmitter is being installed at Jabalpur as a part of expansion of commercial channel.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Gramset Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

185. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on Gramset Scheme in each district of Madhya Pradesh and particularly in Jhabua district during the last three years;

(b) the details of the programmes telecast under this scheme; and

(c) whether the Government propose to include tribals to participate in these programmes for promoting tribal culture?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Railway Industry in Kerala

186. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up railway related industry in industrially backward districts of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details and location thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase of Unreserved Coaches in Trains

187. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trains which the number of unreserved coaches have been increased as on October, 1996; and

(b) the details of trains in which the above coaches are proposed to be increased during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Provision of additional coaches including unreserved coaches on trains is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and availability of coaches.

[English]

Maxi-Dahod Railway Line

188. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of Maxi-Dahod (via Indore) railway line scheme;

(b) whether the work on the above line has been abandoned;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Work of the 1st phase i.e. Dewas-Maxi section has recently been defroze to start the work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In the coming years as per availability of resources.

Acceptance of Piecemeal Indent

189. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North-East Frontier Railway authorities at Dimapur Railway Station refuse to accept piecemeal indents for timber movement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to accept the indents and provide wagons?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Introduction of Express Train between Western Vidarbha Region and Delhi

190. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to start a new express train from Western Vidarbha region to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the projects announced and approved for Vidarbha region alongwith the funds released so far;

(e) the actual works taken up project-wise and reasons for not undertaking execution of works; and

(f) the action taken on the long pending demands for stoppage of express/fast trains at Vidarbha and grant of additional quota in reservation for long journey passengers from Vidarbha?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

(d) and (e). No projects have been announced or approved for the Vidarbha region in the recent past.

(f) The requests for stoppage when received are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

As regards additional reservation quota for long distance passengers from Vidarbha, the following additional/fresh reservation quotas are allotted to stations on Vidarbha region from the dates mentioned against each .

Train No	Class	Existing quota	Increased/fresh quota	Date
Akola				
1006 Vidarbha Express	AC 3-tier	4	8	15.10.96
6064 Navjeevan Express	AC 3-tier	-	2	1.10.96
	Sleeper	8	10	1.10.96
8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Exp	AC 2-tier	-	2	3.10.96
Nagpur				
9767 Madras-Jaipur weekly Express	Sleeper	-	14	1.10.96
8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Exp	AC 2-tier	-	4	3.10.96
Sewagram				
9767 Madras-Jaipur weekly Express	Sleeper	-	2	3.10.96
Ballarshah				
6064 Navjeevan Express	AC 3-tier	-	2	1.10.96
	Sleeper	4	6	1.10.96
Chandrapur				
6046 Navjeevan Express	AC 3-tier	-	2	1.10.96
Narkher				
2409 Bilaspur-Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	Sleeper	-	2	20.10.96
2407 Nagpur-Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	Sleeper	-	2	10.10.96

Expenditure Incurred by Railways on Advertisements and Publicity

191. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Railways on advertisements and publicity through press, radio and television from June 1, 1996 to till date, zone-wise and month-wise;

(b) the nature of advertisements issued and the purpose served by them;

(c) the person under which the instructions of these advertisements were issued;

(d) whether the Government have issued any instructions/guidelines to the Ministry of Railways and Zonal Railways in connection with the issue of advertisements/publicity material etc; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Employment Exchanges

192. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
 SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :
 SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Employment Exchanges in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of persons got registered (technical/non-technical) during each of the last three year, State-wise;
- (c) the number of persons given placement (technical/non-technical) during the above period alongwith percentage, State-wise;
- (d) the approximate annual expenditure on establishment of such employment exchanges, State-wise;
- (e) whether unemployment is on the rise since the entry of multinational companies in the country;
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (g) whether the Government have worked out any skilled/non-skilled/semi-skilled youths through involvement of ITI, Polytechnics, procurement of a equipment, revision of curriculam and course content, introduction of new skills;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the instruction to various States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). State-wise number of

Employment Exchanges, job-seekers registered and placed during the years 1991, 1992 and 1993, education category-wise, is indicated in the statement enclosed. Separate information for technical and non-technical registrants is not maintained.

(d) Employment Exchanges function under the administrative and financial control of the State Governments and hence expenditure on the establishment of Employment Exchange is met by the respective State Governments.

(e) and (f). Detailed study on the effect of multinational companies on employment or unemployment has not been made. However, employment in the organised sector which was of the order of 26.7 million as on 31.3.91 has gone upto about 27.7 million as on 31.3.1996.

(g) to (i) Ministry of Labour is implementing a Vocational Training Project for upgrading the quality of training in ITIs. The Project is being implemented with assistance from the World Bank in 28 States/UTs and cover a number of schemes for upgrading the ITIs, like replacement of old and out-dated equipment, training of staff, provision of Audio-Visual Aids, establishment of equipment maintenance system and introduction of relevant trades in selected ITIs. The main objective of this Project is to modernise and update the National Vocational Training System. The status of implementation of the Project is reviewed periodically by the World Bank Review Mission with the participation of the concerned States. Instructions are issued to the State Governments to implement the recommendations made by the Review Mission for speedy implementation of the Project and thereby achieve its development objectives.

STATEMENT

Number of Registrations made and Placements effected by the Employment Exchanges in the country

Figures in Thousands

States/Union Territories	Number of Employment Exchanges (June, 96)	Registrations Made					
		1991		1992		1993	
		Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above	Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above	Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
States							
1. Andhra Pradesh	32	124.1	254.1	123.3	283.8	88.2	286.1
2. Arunachal Pradesh	5	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.5
3. Assam	53	181.4	228.8	50.0	94.5	55.3	82.0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Bihar		66	204.7	497.0	130.7	327.7	201.7	242.5
5. Goa		1	1.6	9.0	8.3	5.4	5.5	7.0
6. Gujarat		43	67.4	129.2	40.3	140.9	61.6	93.3
7. Haryana		94	96.4	167.4	63.2	151.5	88.2	138.6
8. Himachal Pradesh		15	19.7	65.4	20.4	76.0	29.3	74.2
9. Jammu and Kashmir		14	43.2	11.2	13.7	8.6	28.4	12.3
10. Karnataka		38	137.7	221.2	72.6	203.4	115.4	206.9
11. Kerala		65	86.0	328.7	55.6	304.3	82.7	304.7
12. Madhya Pradesh		65	98.0	238.0	97.8	244.4	115.0	353.1
13. Maharashtra		42	201.9	376.9	150.3	401.1	185.8	409.7
14. Manipur		9	10.9	16.7	2.3	15.2	4.5	13.4
15. Meghalaya		10	4.6	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.5
16. Mizoram		3	2.4	8.3	0.1	7.9	3.8	9.0
17. Nagaland		7	2.2	4.1	1.9	4.0	3.5	3.3
18. Orissa		36	84.7	123.9	47.9	132.7	56.7	147.0
19. Punjab		43	54.5	89.2	61.9	78.1	35.8	72.6
20. Rajasthan		35	63.8	108.3	69.6	105.5	63.3	111.6
21. Sikkim*								
22. Tamil Nadu		34	96.3	463.7	65.2	495.2	156.6	389.5
23. Tripura		4	7.3	3.1	12.0	6.0	17.2	3.3
24. Uttar Pradesh		89	145.2	469.0	139.6	384.5	158.5	366.8
25. West Bengal		74	216.7	241.9	124.4	255.2	247.3	182.0
Union Territories								
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		1	1.7	2.3	1.3	2.3	4.7	-
27. Chandigarh		2	11.8	15.5	7.3	13.6	9.6	14.1
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	-
29. Delhi		20	55.3	124.7	53.0	123.2	48.1	116.1
30. Daman and Diu		2	-	0.4	-	0.4	-	0.6
31. Lakshadweep		1	0.9	-	0.9	-	1.9	-
32. Pondicherry		1	6.5	5.1	6.9	4.3	4.2	8.8
Total		905	2027.7	4208.2	1425.8	3874.8	1878.6	3653.6

States/Union Territories	Placements Effected						Percentage of Placements to Registrations 1993	
	1991		1992		1993			
	Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above	Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above	Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above	Below Matric (including illiterates)	Matric and above
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Andhra Pradesh	9.3	6.1	12.6	6.5	11.6	4.4	13.2	1.5
2. Arunachal Pradesh	@		@	@	0.1	@	11.1	-

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3. Assam	2.6	1.4	1.7	1.0	2.2	0.6	4.0	0.7
4. Bihar	10.6	2.4	11.8	1.5	13.5	0.8	6.7	0.3
5. Goa	0.3	0.5	-	0.1	0.2	0.4	3.6	5.7
6. Gujarat	6.8	9.4	8.5	16.4	18.9	9.2	30.7	9.9
7. Haryana	5.1	2.2	2.3	1.3	3.2	1.3	3.6	0.9
8. Himachal Pradesh	1.4	2.4	2.8	2.5	1.6	2.7	5.5	3.6
9. Jammu and Kashmir	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.1	3.9	0.8
10. Karnataka	9.2	4.9	4.8	5.7	7.3	8.3	6.4	4.0
11. Kerala	2.3	13.8	1.4	14.2	6.2	10.4	7.5	3.4
12. Madhya Pradesh	9.3	5.6	8.2	5.9	9.3	8.7	8.1	2.5
13. Maharashtra	12.6	17.0	9.6	17.3	11.6	14.0	6.2	3.4
14. Manipur	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.2	1.5
15. Meghalaya	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	-	0.2	-	4.4
16. Mizoram	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.3	15.8	3.3
17. Nagaland	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	-	0.1	-	3.0
18. Orissa	2.9	4.7	2.5	4.6	2.1	2.7	3.7	1.8
19. Punjab	3.7	2.7	3.0	2.1	2.2	1.7	6.2	2.3
20. Rajasthan	1.8	9.3	2.2	10.4	2.2	6.8	3.5	6.1
21. Sikkim*								
22. Tamil Nadu	14.7	23.9	7.4	22.8	14.9	9.1	9.5	2.3
23. Tripura	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	2.4	0.1	14.0	3.0
24. Uttar Pradesh	11.4	6.0	13.5	5.4	8.1	6.8	5.1	1.9
25. West Bengal	4.4	5.3	2.4	5.0	4.1	2.4	1.7	1.3
Union Territories								
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	-	10.6	-
27. Chandigarh	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	7.3	5.0
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-	-
29. Delhi	16.6	5.4	14.3	2.5	11.6	2.8	24.1	2.4
30. Daman and Diu	-	@	@	@	-	0.2	-	33.3
31. Lakshadweep	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.2	-	10.5	-
32. Pondicherry	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	2.4	4.5
Total	127.5	125.5	110.3	128.4	136.3	95.1	7.3	2.6

- Note : 1. * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
 2. Figures in Cols. 3 to 14 may not add up to total due to rounding off.
 3. @ Figures less than 50.

Air Fare Increase by I.A.

193. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines had

increased its airfare twice within a year with different rates of increase for different areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rate of increase in airfare in the North-Eastern areas has been less as compared to the

Northern areas particularly the backward Ladakh region which remains cut off from the rest of the area for over 7 months in a year:

(d) if so, the reasons therefor:

(e) whether the people of the Ladakh region had lodged strong protest to the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The rates of increase in airfare is higher in Ladakh region as compared to the North-East region due to high cost of operations of flights to Leh. The revenue from these flights does not even meet the operating cost. Indian Airlines is, however, maintaining the fares from/to Leh at par with other sectors.

(e) and (f) Requests received in this behalf could not be acceded to due to the reason stated above.

[Translation]

Setting up of Taj Protected Area Development Authority

194. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Taj Protected Area Development Authority as suggested in 'Agra Heritage Project' formulated with the cooperation of United States of America for the overall development of Taj Protected Areas.

(b) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter.

(c) the details of the other recommendations made for the development of tourism in Agra Heritage Project; and

(d) the details of the action plan for the implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) and (b) A final decision to establish a single mechanism to coordinate the activities of the Agra Heritage sites can be taken after similar issues have also been considered in the proposed technical assistance Project on Environmental Improvement and Sustainable Development of Agra, Mathura and Firozabad Trapezium in Uttar Pradesh by the Asian Development Bank.

(c) The major recommendations of the Agra

Heritage Project of the Govt. of India-National Parks Services USA are :

1. To ensure supply of uninterrupted power.
2. To improve Industrial operations.
3. To construct the Agra Bye-Pass Road and Ring Road.
4. To ensure use of Gas/LPG in Central Agra.
5. Construction of the Agra Barrage to improve the water supply position.
6. To ensure effective sewage treatment and solid waste management.

(d) The Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh have already started implementing some of the recommendations

[English]

Availability of Pantry Cars in the Mail/Express Trains

195. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of mail/express trains passing through Bokaro Steel City, Dhanbad and Ranchi stations in which pantry cars have been provided;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation requesting for providing pantry cars in some important trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Pantry cars have been provided on following trains :

Bokaro Steel City and Ranchi

8101/8102 Hatia-Pathankot Exp.

Dhanbad

2381/2382 Poorva Exp.

2421/2422 BBs-NDLS Rajdhani.

3317/3318 Black Dimond Exp.

3029/3030 Coal Exp.

2307/2300 Jodhpur Express.

2301/2302 HWH-NDLS Rajdhani Exp.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Pantry car and mobile catering services on long distance trains are provided keeping in view the importance of the train, running time, stoppages, adequacy of catering services from static units enroute, the timings etc. subject to availability of pantry cars and maximum permissible load of the train. It has been decided to provide pantry cars by 8689/8690 Bokaro-Allepy Exp. 9305/9306 Indore-Howrah Shipra Exp.

Increase in Duration of Kannada News

196. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the present duration of Kannada news bulletin by Bangalore Doordarshan; and

(b) whether the Government propose to increase this duration to cover more regional news to telecast second Kannada news bulletin to facilitate viewers abreast of the latest developments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 15 minutes daily

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Wonder Loop

197. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Wonder Loop" appearing in the "India Today" dated September 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the economic aspect thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to adopt this technology;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Wonder Loop" appearing in the "India Today" of September 30, 1996 mentions regarding indigenously developed Wireless Local Loop System employing radio signals to link subscribers with Telephone Exchange. System has been developed by collaborative efforts of IIT Madras, an Indian Company and a US Co. The system has been installed at Chennai for trials.

(c) The economic aspect of the system is not yet known.

(d) and (e). Government has plans to introduce wireless local loop system in Telecom network. A generic specification giving requirements of such systems, has already been prepared. Such of those wireless in local loop systems which broadly meet with the requirements

are subjected to field trial if they are offered by the companies

(f) Not applicable in view of (d) and (e) above.

[Translation]

Report on Prasar Bharati Act

198. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expert Group constituted on Prasar Bharati has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the above group;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The major recommendations of the Expert Group are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Government is in the process of wide consultation with various political parties/State Governments. Based on these an Amendment Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

STATEMENT

The major recommendations relating to Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, of the Expert Group, are as under :

- Prasar Bharati to be a statutory corporation as envisaged in the Act;
- Akashvani and Doordarshan to be split into two completely separate wings, under the corporate umbrella of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, with close coordination in areas clearly defined by the Corporation;
- Prasar Bharati Board to be restructured with a full-time Chairman combining the functions

of Chairman and Chief Executive, six full-time members, four part-time members, representatives from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Managing Directors of Akashvani and Doordarshan;

Employees' participation in management below the Board Level;

Chairman of the Board to be appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Committee having Chairman of Council of States, Leader of Opposition, and Chairman of the Press Council;

Certain suggestions relate to the term of office of the Chairman, members, as well as recruitment and deployment of officers and other employees;

The Parliamentary Committee provided for in Section 13(1) to be dispensed with, as its work can be looked after by the Standing Committee on Communications, the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry and by the proposed Radio and Television Authority of India (as directed by the Supreme Court);

Need to precisely define the areas in Section 24 in respect of which the Corporation will furnish information to Central Government;

An authorised share of Rs. 5,000 crores, paid up capital of Rs. 2,000 crores, and the assets of AIR and Doordarshan to be transferred on lease to the Corporation;

Annual grants-in-aid from the Government till Prasar Bharati becomes self-sufficient from advertising and commercial revenue;

Revival of an annual or lumpsum Broadcast Receiver Licence Fee for television sets;

The cost of running public service broadcasting channels to be met from Governments funding by way of grant-in-aid, equity or loan;

Certain suggestions relate to creation of professional marketing set-up, aggressive marketing strategies, and dedication of particular channels to education etc.

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Palakkad and Trivandrum Divisions will lose their prominence due to the proposed reorganisation;

(d) whether Kerala is likely to get the due share of Railway development in proportion to the income likely to be earned from these Divisions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Government has decided to set up six new Zonal Railway Hqrs. at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The issue of Divisions losing prominence due to re-organisation does not arise.

(d) and (e). Railway investments are made keeping in view the traffic requirement, throughout Indian Railways. Investment decisions are not taken Statewise.

Electronic and Manual Telephone Exchanges in Haryana

200. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic and manual telephone exchanges including their capacity in Haryana, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges during the last three years in the State, district-wise;

(c) the number of new electronic exchanges set up during the last three years in the above State, district-wise; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges and the number of new electronic exchanges likely to be set up during 1996-97 in the State, district-wise;

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Details are given in Statement-III enclosed.

(d) Details are given in Statement-IV enclosed.

STATEMENT - I

No. of Telephone Exchanges (Manual and Electronic) along with their capacity in Haryana

S. No.	District	No. of Manual Exchanges	No. of Electronic Exchanges	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ambala	Nil	86	36660
2.	Yamuna Nagar	Nil	42	14380

[English]

Bifurcation of Southern Railway

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bifurcate the Southern Railway into South Zone and West Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

1	2	3	4	5
3. Faridabad		Nil	33	59080
4. Gurgaon		Nil	37	51116
5. Rewari		Nil	28	6684
6. Mohindergarh		Nil	24	4464
7. Karnal		Nil	45	14512
8. Kaithal		Nil	30	6804
9. Kurukshetra		Nil	34	14408
10. Panipat		Nil	18	17828
11. Hisar		Nil	87	36652
12. Sirsa		Nil	56	8040
13. Jind		Nil	67	13656
14. Rohtak		Nil	55	20468
15. Bhiwani		Nil	57	13820
16. Sonapat		Nil	38	11560
			737	330132

STATEMENT - II

No. of Telephone Exchanges converted into Electronic Exchanges during last 3 years

S. No.	District	Converted during 93-94	Converted during 94-95	Converted during 95-96
1.	Ambala	1	1	..
2.	Yamuna Nagar	3
3.	Faridabad	4	2	..
4.	Gurgaon	8	3	..
5.	Rewari	5	1	..
6.	Mohindergarh	4	1	..
7.	Karnal	2	1	..
8.	Kaithal	3	1	..
9.	Kurukshetra	1	2	..
10.	Panipat	2	2	..
11.	Hisar	3	3	..
12.	Sirsa	4	2	..
13.	Jind	2	1	..
14.	Rohtak	2
15.	Bhiwani	2	-	..
16.	Sonapat	1
	Total	47	20	..

STATEMENT - III

No. of new Electronic Exchanges set up during last 3 years

S. No.	District	Set up during 93-94	Set up during 94-95	Set up during 95-96
1.	Ambala	5	9	5
2.	Yamuna Nagar	2	4	8
3.	Faridabad	2	2	1
4.	Gurgaon	2	..	3
5.	Karnal	2	4	3
6.	Kaithal	3	5	3
7.	Kurukshetra	3	4	3
8.	Panipat	2	3	2
9.	Hisar	8	13	12
10.	Sirsa	7	15	10
11.	Rohtak	..	5	3
12.	Bhiwani	1	6	3
13.	Jind	12	8	6
14.	Sonapat	..	2	3
15.	Rewari	4	2	1
16.	Mohindergarh	2	1	1
	Total	55	83	62

STATEMENT - IV

No. of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1996-97

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges to be converted
1.	Hisar	1
2.	Rohtak	1

No. of New Electronic Telephone Exchanges to be set up during 1996-97

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges to be set up
1.	2	3
1.	Hisar	4
2.	Sirsa	3

1	2	3
3.	Karnal	1
4.	Panipat	2
5.	Kaithal	2
6.	Kurukshetra	2
7.	Jind	1
8.	Sonepat	2
9.	Rohtak	1
10.	Gurgaon	2
	Total	20

Accident at Unmanned Level Crossing

201. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether five persons killed on the spot and nine injured when the Secunderabad-bound Krishna Express from Tirupati ran into an Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation bus on unmanned level crossing between Venkatagiri and Gudur stations on 22.9.1996;

(b) if so, the total number of persons killed and injured;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) the total loss suffered and compensation provided to the victims;

(e) the percentage of rail accidents occurred in the country and in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(f) the total loss suffered by Railways in Andhra Pradesh by train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 7405 Tirupati-Secunderabad Express collided with the bus at an unmanned level crossing between Vendadu and Kondagunta stations of Tirupathi-Gudur section of Guntakal Division of South Central Railway at about 7.30 hours on 24.9.96, as a result of which 4 persons died on the spot while 10 persons were injured and admitted to the hospital.

(b) With 4 more persons succumbing to injuries in the hospital, total of 8 persons died in the accident, while 6 sustained injuries.

(c) Yes, Sir. The accident was enquired into by a Committee of Officers.

(d) The Railways suffered a loss of about Rs. 65,000/- on account of damage to the Railway property

in this accident. Compensation is not payable to the kins of victims in case of unmanned level crossing accident.

(e) The figures of accidents are not maintained State-wise. However, the number of consequential train accidents on South Central Railway, which serves a major portion of Andhra Pradesh, vis-a-vis the number of consequential train accidents which took place on Indian Railways as a whole, during the last three years are given below :

Year	Accidents occurred on South Central Railway	Accidents occurred on Indian Railways
1993-94	57 (11%)	520
1994-95	50 (10%)	501
1995-96	41 (10%)	398

(The percentage of accident is indicated in brackets)

(f) Information of loss suffered by the Railway due to accidents is not maintained State-wise. However, the loss suffered by South Central Railway on account of accidents that occurred between April and October 1996 amounted to Rs. 6.65 crores.

Losses by Air India

202. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is losing rupees one crore daily as reported in 'Hindustan Times' dated October 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the approximate amount of loss likely to be incurred by Air India during the current financial year and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to meet the loss?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The estimated loss of Air India for the period April to September, 1996 is Rs. 195 crores. The losses are owing to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation of engineers etc.

(d) The budgeted loss for 1996-97 is Rs. 230 crores.

(e) To improve its financial performance Air India is taking steps to intensify its marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Pending Mining Lease

203 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several mining lease licences of various States are pending clearance by the Union Government since long.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State wise.

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard, and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Proposals for grant of mineral concessions are received by the Central Government for minerals specified under the Schedule I of the aforesaid Act from respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. 462 cases have been cleared during the year 1995-96. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete. In such cases, State Government are asked to furnish completed information for disposal.

Survey for Tumkur-Sira-Hiriyur-Chitradurga Railway Line

204 SHRI P. KODANDARAMAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey for Tumkur-Sira-Hiriyur-Chitradurga railway line has been conducted to link Davanagers directly.

(b) if so, the present position of the project, and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The survey has been taken up.

(b) and (c). Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[Translation]

Temporary Telephone Connections

205 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Asthai telephone ke liye sthai intjar" appearing in "Navbharat Times" dated September 9, 1996.

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor.

(c) the action taken against the erring officials.

(d) whether any new plan has been formulated by the Government to provide temporary telephone connections expeditiously.

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Demand and Production of Concrete Sleeper Factories

206 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and production of concrete sleeper factories, year-wise during each of the last three years in the country.

(b) the location wise details of concrete sleeper factories functioning in the country at present.

(c) the factories out of them owned by the Government and private concern separately.

(d) whether there is any need of further sleeper factories, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The demand and production of concrete sleepers factories for the last three years is furnished below :

(Fig. in lakhs)

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Demand	67.10	59.10	56.00
Productions	67.50	61.60	56.40

(b) and (c) The location wise details of concrete sleeper factories owned by the Government and by Private manufacturers are enclosed in the Statement.

(d) and (e) The present manufacturing capacity of the existing factories is more than the requirement as such there is no proposal for setting up of new factories.

STATEMENT

	Ş.No	Name of the Firm	Location
	1	2	3
CR	1.	M/s Indian Hume Pipe Co. Ltd.	Karari
	2.	M/s Prestress (India) P. Ltd.	Warora
	3.	M/s Kaprecon Sleeper Works Pvt. Ltd.	Butibori
	4.	M/s Engineers Prestressed Structures P. Ltd.	Banmore
	5.	M/s Stresscrete Pvt. Ltd.	Budni
	6.	M/s BEMCO Sleepers P. Ltd.	Nandgaon
	7.	M/s Khem Chand	Ghosalpur
	8.	M/s Marathwada Prestress Pvt. Ltd.	Borgaon
	9.	M/s Concrete India	Lonavla
	10.	M/s Engineers Prestressed Structures (Antri Unit)	Antri
	11.	M/s Shree Kesharia Concrete Products	Bareth
	12.	M/s DEMCO Sleepers Pvt. Ltd.	Khandwa
E.R.	13.	M/s Daya Engg. Works Ltd.	Manpur
	14.	M/s Daya Engg. Works (Sleepers) P. Ltd.	Manpur
	15.	M/s Prestressed Udyog (India) P. Ltd.	Chhotaambona
	16.	M/s Tantia Concrete Products 'P' Ltd.	Pannagarh
	17.	M/s Tankrete India Pvt. Ltd.	Rampurhat
	18.	M/s MUVA Industries P. Ltd.	Jagdishpur
	19.	M/s Stresscon (Ind.) Pvt. Ltd.	Chamagram
N.R.	20.	M/s Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	Jangpura, New Delhi
	21.	M/s Jay Prestressed Products Ltd.	Kosikalan
	22.	M/s Track Innovations Pvt. Ltd.	Chandigarh
	23.	M/s Arvind Const. Co. Ltd.	Marwar Chhapri
	24.	M/s Daya Engg. Works (Sleeper) P. Ltd.	Degana
	25.	M/s Ashi Pvt. Ltd.	Rewari
N.E.R.	26.	M/s Annavaram Concrete P. Ltd.	Burhwal
	27.	M/s Nataraj Engineers P. Ltd.	Sarai
	28.	M/s CCI Prestress Ties Pvt. Ltd.	Clutterbuckganj
NFR	29.	M/s PCM Cement Concrete Pvt. Ltd.	New Jalpaiguri
	30.	M/s Daya Engg. Works	Mirza
	31.	M/s Prestressed Udyog Assam Pvt. Ltd.	New Bongaigaon
	32.	M/s Arunoday Const. Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Jagi Road
	33.	M/s Allied Engg. Enterprise	Badarpur
S.R.	34.	M/s Concrete Products and Const. Co.	Ambattur
	35.	M/s Kottukulam Engineers Pvt. Ltd.	Bommididi
	36.	M/s Concrete Products and Const. Co.	Tiruvalam
	37.	M/s KEK Prestressed Concrete Ltd.	Palghat
	38.	M/s Malu Sleepers (P) Ltd.	Birur Jn.
	39.	M/s Nellai Concrete Products and Const.	Gangaikondan
	40.	M/s Maruthi Builders	Yeshwantpur
SCR	41.	M/s Mysore Structural Ltd.	Hafeezpet
	42.	M/s The Concrete Products Const. Co.	Kondapalli
	43.	M/s Rayalseema Concrete Sleepers P. Ltd.	Timmancharla
	44.	M/s Raghavendia Prestress Products Ltd.	Mantralayam Rd.
	45.	M/s Coromandel Concrete Products Ltd.	Kovvur
	46.	M/s Lakshmi Prestress Concrete Works	Hasanparti Rd.

	1	2	3
	47	M/s V.S. Engg. Pvt. Ltd.	Nallapadu
	48	M/s Mahadev Industries	Hospet
SER	49	M/s Orissa Concrete Products P. Ltd.	Jharsuguda
	50	M/s ISCO Track Sleepers P. Ltd.	Kalumna
	51	M/s Orissa Concrete and Allied Industries Ltd.	Raipur
	52	M/s Vijay Prestressed Products P. Ltd.	Pendurti
	53	M/s DEW Concrete Ties Pvt. Ltd.	Dalbhumgarh
	54	M/s Rayalseema Concrete Sleepers (P) Ltd.	Kargi Road
	55	M/s Nilgiri Sleeper Pvt. Ltd.	Nilgiri Road
	56	Prestressed Udyog (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Chandil
	57	M/s Mazda Concrete Products	Kaipadar Rd
	58	M/s Daya Concrete Pvt. Ltd.	Dalbhumgarh
	59	M/s United Vabs	Dongargarh
	60	M/s Gannon Dunkerley and Co.	Rayagada
	61	M/s Sahuwala Cylinders Ltd.	Garudabilli
W.R.	62	M/s Usha Prestressed Sleeper Udyog	Godhra
	63	M/s Manibhai Bros. (Sleeper)	Kharsalia
	64	M/s S. Subramanyan and Co.	Kharsalia
	65	M/s Vaman Prestressing Co. Ltd.	Panvel
	66	M/s Tankrete (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Udvada
	67	M/s Donypolo Udyog (P) Ltd.	Shamgarh
	68	M/s Rural Engg. Co. (P) Ltd.	Shambhupura

Factories Owned by the Government

S.No.	Name of Railway	Location
1.	Northern	Subedarganj
2.	Northern	Khalispur

Implementation of Bachhawat Award

207. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the present status in regard to the implementation of Bachhawat Award for working journalists;

(b) the action taken against the newspapers which have not implemented the recommendations;

(c) the amount lost due to the non-implementation of this award?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) As per information available from the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations, out of 1572 newspapers establishments, 628 have fully and 32 have partially implemented the recommendations of Bachhawat Award;

(b) Under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, responsibility for enforcement lies with the State Governments. The Central Government has time and again been impressing upon the State Governments for speedy implementation of recommendations of Bachhawat Award and

(c) No such records are maintained by Government

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Australia

208. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement regarding air services has been signed between India and Australia recently

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which the said agreement is likely to come in force?

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

(b) The salient features of the agreement signed on 16.10.1996 are :

- i. The capacity has been increased to 1450 seats/week for each side with immediate effect which will be further raised to 1650 seats/week and to 2100 seats/week in November 1997 and November 1998 respectively.

- ii. Australian carriers can serve Calcutta, Delhi and Mumbai and combine Calcutta with Delhi or Mumbai on the same flight. The designated airline of India can continue to combine three points of call in Australia on the same flight

(c) The above revised entitlements have come into force on the date of signature of the Memorandum of Understanding i.e. 16.10.96

[English]

Outstanding Dues against Railways

209. SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have to pay a huge amount to Maharashtra on account of deployment of Police Force of the State on railway duties since 1979.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the reasons for such a long delay in making the payment to the State Government, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite payment of above outstanding dues to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The total outstanding with the railways at present is Rs. 6.61 crores. However, this amount does not include claims of approximately Rs. 22.57 crores rejected by Central Railway on account of creation of posts of GRP personnel without the approval of Railway administration

(c) The reasons attributed to the delay in payment are as under :

- i. Non-submission of audit certificate by the State Government
- ii. Constraints of budget provision for the purpose.
- iii. Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Government without approval of Railway administration.

(d) Clearly admissible bills will be passed in 1996-97 subject to the availability of funds.

[Translation]

Paucity of Drinking Water at the Railway Stations situated in Rural Areas

210. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is paucity of drinking water at the railway stations situated in rural areas.

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to provide drinking water facility at the said railway stations.

(c) whether the Government are also aware that there is no arrangement of drinking water facility at Kapargaon Railway Station where thousands of Pilgrims come daily to visit Shirdi-Sai Baba temple and whether Government propose to make any arrangements in this regard.

(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) to (e). Facility of drinking water in one way or other is provided invariably at all railway stations of Indian Railways, irrespective of the fact whether they fall under rural or urban area.

Kopargaon railway station has railway's own well as well as water supply connection from the local authority. Sufficient water taps, a water cooler, water hut with 6 Gharas and 3 water trollys are provided at the station which are adequate for the level of traffic handled.

[English]

Acquisition of Land

211. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have acquired any land for the International Airport Authority of India along Delhi-Jaipur National Highway No. 8 adjacent to Palam Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the total acreage of land acquired and compensation paid to farmers.

(c) the purpose for which the acquired land has been earmarked; and

(d) the details of the land taken into use as on September 30, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). More than 3500 acres of land surrounding/abutting Palam airport was acquired by the Civil Aviation Department through the Delhi Administration for the development of Delhi Airport. Precise figures of compensation paid are not available. This land subsequently came under the control of International Airports Authority of India. National Highway No. 8 has also been diverted from its previous location, due to operational reasons and has been constructed on the lands acquired from adjoining Mahipalpur and Rangpuri Villages. Actual utilisation of land by Airports Authority of India as on 30-9-1996 at

Delhi airport is broadly as follows :

	(in acres)
1. Operational	1999.23
2. Commercial	230.84
3. Residential	92.49
4. Land under encroachment	25.00
5. Land yet to be handed over to AAI by land Acquisition Office	86.00
6. Vacant land for future development	2597.00
7. Others	19.44
Total	5050.00

[Translation]

News Correspondents

212. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of News Correspondents existing under his Ministry at present;

(b) whether new recruitments have been made during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). There are 57 posts of Correspondents in All India and 15 posts of TV News Correspondent and 33 posts of TV Assistant News Correspondent in Doordarshan. 57 posts of Correspondent in All India Radio belong to different grades of Indian Information Service. There is as such no specific recruitment for the post of Correspondent in All India Radio. These posts form part of cadre strength of Indian Information Service. Candidates are made available by Union Public Service Commission every year for Indian Information Service as per recruitment of the cadre. Officers available in the cadre are posted in the post of Correspondent as also in other posts of this service, as per administrative and functional requirements. There was no recruitment of TV News Correspondents/TV Assistant News Correspondents in Doordarshan during the last three years.

[English]

Telecom in Bihar

213. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to Bihar Telecommunications during 1995-96;

(b) the amount out of it utilised/surrendered by the State;

(c) the reasons for surrendering the amount earmarked for improvement of telecom in the State;

(d) whether some other Telecom Circles of the country have also surrendered any amount out of the allocations made by the Union Government during the above period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Rs. 228.36 Crores had been allotted to Bihar Telecom Circle during 1995-96.

(b) The Bihar Telecom Circle utilised Rs. 190.43 Crores and surrendered Rs. 37.93 Crores during 1995-96.

(c) The surrender has been warranted on account of nonreceipt of large number of equipments before the end of the financial year 1995-96.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Following four Telecom Circles have also surrendered some of their budget allocation for 1995-96 :

Name of Circle	Amount (Rs. Crs.)
Madhya Pradesh	55.00
Calcutta Projects	40.00
ALTIC Ghaziabad	1.72
Telecom Factory Jabalpur	0.49

The surrender has been warranted on account of non-receipt of telecom equipments before the end of the financial year 1995-96.

Re-sale of used Railway Tickets

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vigilance Department of Railway during the raids had noticed re-sale of used railway tickets by the Station Master of Brahma Vart (Uttar Pradesh); and

(b) if so, the steps taken against the accused and precautionary measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) The Station Master has been placed under suspension and DAR action has been taken. Preventive surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance Organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis to tackle such irregularities.

Statutory Authority for ITI

215. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a statutory authority to regulate Industrial Training Institute (ITI) both in public and private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The proposal is at the discussion stage and the details have not been finalised.

Use of Imported Coal by Steel Industries

216. SHRI S.B. THORAT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert group on export of iron and steel has flayed heavy import of coking coal during the last 5 years;

(b) if so, the quantity of coking coal imported by the steel industries during the last three years alongwith cost thereof, year-wise and plant-wise.

(c) the other details of the recommendations made by an Expert Committee; and

(d) the action taken to reduce imports?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The Expert Group on Export of Iron and Steel set up by the Government has not yet submitted its report.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Slum Dwellers

217. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to issue 'No objection certificate' to the slum dwellers on Railways land in Mumbai to enable them to get water and power connections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Recognition of Trade Unions by Secret Ballots

218. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to accord recognition to trade unions by secret ballots;

(b) if so, whether any legislation likely to be enacted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The issue of determination of the representative character of trade unions by secret ballot has been referred to the Bipartite Committee constituted by the Ministry of Labour and consisting of representatives of employers and workers. Further course of action will depend on the recommendation of the committee.

[Translation]

Subsidy from the Union Government

219. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has sought subsidy from the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of the subsidy sought by it;

(c) the reasons for which subsidy has been sought;

(d) whether the Government have considered over the said demand; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has requested the Ministry to consider payment of subsidy for operations to North East Sector, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. With the entry of private Airlines, Indian Airlines share of the trunk routes declined considerably resulting in heavy losses to Indian Airlines. It could no longer cross-subsidise its losses in the un-economic sectors. Therefore, the airlines submitted this proposal for subsidy.

A Committee of experts have been constituted to make a comprehensive examination of the reasons for such losses and propose strategy for turning around Indian Airlines in the context of competitive market environment. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

[English]

Development of Coastal Railway Line

220. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any comprehensive proposal for the development of coastal railway line between Ernakulam-Kayamkulam via Alleppey;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the implementation of above proposals?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Branch Post Offices in Bihar

221. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open branch post offices in rural areas of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target have been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide postal facilities to rural population?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is the policy of the Government to open Branch Post Offices in rural areas progressively under the Annual Plans subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is a target to open 10 Post Offices in rural areas of Bihar during the year 1996-97.

(e) The Government have so far sanctioned 176 Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices in Bihar under the 8th Five Year Plan (i.e. 1992-93 to 1996-97).

Refund and Compensation to Consumers

222. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions during the last two years, till 31.10.96 when consumer courts directed the Railways to refund the money of consumers and to compensate them;

(b) the loss of revenue suffered by the railways as a result thereof;

(c) whether the reasons for the above losses have been analysed;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to bring down the number of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 235.

(b) Rs. 3,51,787/-.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Deficiency in services such as non-functioning of Aircondition and mechanical failure-of coach, system failure of computer-reservation, lack of response by front line staff and the delay on the part of staff working in the refund offices. Guidelines have been issued from time to time to ensure public awareness for timely preferment of their claims for refund to the concerned authority with requisite documents. Concerned staff are educated through seminars and various meetings to give customer satisfactory service.

Sponsored Programmes on Doordarshan

223. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time limit within which sponsored programmes are sanctioned by Doordarshan;

(b) whether any discrimination is being make in sanctioning the programmes; and

(c) if not, the reasons for providing benefit to a few producers only?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The approval of sponsored programmes depends upon the programme requirement of Doordarshan and the completion of all formalities by the applicant. Doordarshan normally takes 90 days to approve the programme after all the formalities are completed by the applicant.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Liberalisation/Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers

224. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of bonded labourers, particularly in the tribal, backward and hilly areas, State-wise;

(b) whether any action plan has been formulated/proposed to be formulated for their liberalisation and rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of bonded labourers liberated/rehabilitated so far, State-wise, and particularly in Gujarat;

(e) whether any assistance has been provided for the purpose during the last three years to each State and particularly to Gujarat;

(f) if so, the details thereof and particularly in regard to the tribal, backward and hilly areas:

(g) whether any Committee has been constituted for identification, liberation and rehabilitation of bonded labourers; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and achievements made so far by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The State Governments have reported identification of 2,51,424 bonded labourers out of which 2,30,915 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour which envisage rehabilitation assistance upto the ceiling limit of Rs. 10,000/- per bonded labour. The expenditure is equally shared by Centre and State Governments on (50:50) basis. The State-wise details of bonded labourers identified/released and rehabilitated are given in the enclosed Statement

(e) and (f). The details of funds released during last three years to the States are given below. No funds were sought by the State Government of Gujarat during the last three years. The area-wise details are not maintained

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Amount released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	101.41	31.25	79.37
Bihar	6.18	6.61	-
Karnataka	171.50	42.66	2.84
Kerala	6.03	-	-
Orissa	5.75	0.39	1.63
Rajasthan	1.69	3.28	5.70
Tamil Nadu	1.59	1.12	-
Total	294.15	85.31	89.54

(g) No, Sir

(h) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

State-wise Details of Bonded Labourers

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
	Identified & Released	Rehabilitated
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,553
Bihar	12,986	12,270

1	2	3
Karnataka	62,708	55,231
Madhya Pradesh	12,804	11,897
Orissa	49,971	46,808
Rajasthan	7,478	6,217
Tamil Nadu	38,886	39,375
Maharashtra	1,382	1,300
Uttar Pradesh	27,489	27,469
Kerala	823	710
Haryana	544	21
Gujarat	64	64
Total	2,51,424	2,30,915

[English]

Decrease in the Arrivals of Foreign Tourists

225. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any decrease in the number of foreign tourists during the first six months of 1996-97 in comparison with the same period during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of loss of foreign exchange suffered due to such decrease?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) there was no decline in the foreign tourist arrivals during the first six months of 1996-97 as compared to the same period of 1995-96. The comparative figures are as given below.

Tourist Arrivals

Period	1995	1996	% Change
April-Sept.	879381	929944	5.7

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Privatisation of Various Jobs

226. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified areas in Telecommunication and postal service for involvement of private sector in carrying out various jobs operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government for modernisation of postal services and aggressive marketing in profitable areas for earning more revenues; and

(d) the details of strategies worked out by Postal Department to compete with private agencies which are expanding profitably?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :

Telecommunications

(a) and (b). In the Department of Telecom, all the works pertaining to maintenance are carried out by the Department only. However, some jobs such as cable laying, duct construction, construction of overhead alignments, computerisation etc. are given on contract to private parties, depending on the local needs.

Postal

In order to provide basic postal facility extensively, Department of Post have been allowing licenced postal agents to operate under specific terms and conditions to sell stamps and stationery and book registered articles. Individual, Firm or Society are allowed agencies for sale of stamps and stationery. Similarly, in order to provide basic postal services in rural area not having such services and where opening of a post office is justified, scheme of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras has been introduced in 1995. Under this scheme Gram Panchayat at the Headquarter of village where post office is justified, is allowed to set up Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra to provide sale of stamps and stationery, book registered articles and deliver unaccountable articles in the village and provide facility for small saving schemes.

(c) and (d). Department is modernising postal services with induction of technology and computer in different areas of activity. Computer-based counter machines providing efficient responsive and error free service are already operating in about 2600 counters in the country. Modernisation of mail processing in important nodal points to handle large volume of mail has also been undertaken and two Air Mail Processing Centres have been set up at Mumbai and Chennai respectively. Computers have also been introduced for different areas of operations in Saving Bank, Postal Life Insurance and Material Management. Introduction of Track and Trace in Speed Post is also intended to make the service more customer-friendly.

A Business Development Directorate within Department of Post has been set up w.e.f. 1.2.1996 to provide focussed management and marketing of the premium product and for modernisation of the procedures of handling such products.

50% Concession to Persons in Train Fares

227. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the categories of persons which have been given

50 percent concessions in train fares by the Government during the last six months;

(b) the loss of revenue suffered by the Government every year on this account;

(c) the criterion fixed by the Government to issue free Travel Railway passes/concession passes to the people;

(d) whether any free travel railway passes/train concession passes have been issued during the last six months;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the categories of persons;

(f) whether it is a fact that these passes are being misutilised by the people; and

(g) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Railways grant standard 50% concession in fare to Deaf and Dumb persons, Unemployed Youths for interviews in PSUs including Government Offices/Statutory Body/Municipal Corporation/Government Undertaking/University/Public Sector Banks, Students, Artists, Coolies, Marine Engineers Apprentices, Sportsmen, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Dronacharya Awardees, Police Awardees, Parents accompanying National Bravery Awardee, National Awarded Teachers and Press Correspondents. These categories of persons have continued to avail this standard concession during the last 6 months. Besides, 50% concession has been granted to persons for attending the conferences and National Integration Camps of educational, cultural and social organisations.

(b) Railways are losing approximately Rs. 200 crores per annum on account of various concessions granted to different categories of passengers.

(c) As per extant guidelines, Complimentary Card Passes are issued, with the personal approval of Minister of Railways, to the following :

Category 'A' : Former Ministers/Ministers of State/Deputy Ministers in the Ministry of Railways.

Category 'B' : Organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities.

Category 'C' : Eminent Persons engaged in above mentioned activities.

Category 'D' : Others which may include card passes on compassionate/medical grounds, etc.

Card Passes are issued either in First Class or Second Class depending upon the status of the Organisation/Individual, at the discretion of Minister of

Railways. In deserving cases, permission to travel in First AC Class and also for taking a companion in the same class/second class is also given. The passes issued are valid for one year only, except in deserving and exceptional cases as decided by the Minister of Railways.

Complimentary Card Passes are available over one or more Zonal Railways with validity period usually not exceeding one year at a time. The Card Pass entitles the holder to perform rail journeys from any station to any station and any number of times.

(d) Yes, Sir.

- (e) (i) Former Members of Parliament
 (ii) Arjuna Award Winners, Olympic Medalists and Gold Medalists of Asian and Commonwealth Games.
 (iii) Presidents and Secretaries of National Sports Federations (NSFs) and State Olympic Associations (SOAs) affiliated to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
 (iv) Receipts of Gallantry Award and widows of winners of Gallantry Awards (Chakra series)
 (v) Complimentary Card Passes at the discretion of the Minister of Railways to organisations and individuals.

(f) No cases of misutilisation of free passes/train concession passes have come to notice during the last six months.

(g) The ticket checking staff have standing instructions to treat persons travelling with improper tickets/free passes/train concession passes as per extant rules and charge them accordingly.

[Translation]

Time Allotted to Nepali Programmes

228. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time allotted to each day to Nepali Programmes on Doordarshan in various States particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal to increase the time allotted to Nepali programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Only Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta (West Bengal) is telecasting Nepali programmes for a duration of 10 minutes on every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

and 15 minutes on every Tuesday. No Nepali programme is being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai in Maharashtra

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Norms for Telecasting Epic Serials

229. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for telecast of epic serials on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government propose to serialise and telecast Hindi serials on ancient and classic dramas in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details of the plans proposed to be drawn up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No separate norms are fixed for telecast of epic serials on Doordarshan and the proposals for such serials are considered under sponsored category by the Selection Committee alongwith other proposals.

(b) The proposals for telecast of Hindi serials on ancient and classic dramas in Gujarat, as and when received, will be considered by the Selection Committee alongwith other such proposals.

(c) Doordarshan will continue to endeavour, as in the past, to select such sponsored serials which propagate high socio-cultural values, seek to inculcate in the viewers equal respect for different religions, promote national integration and provide wholesome entertainment.

Lackness of Air Transport Services

230. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of adequate and quality air transport services has hampered the country's potential for tourism development and growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ensure that air transport services grow in a balanced manner throughout the country, route dispersal guidelines have been issued requiring operators of trunk routes to provide capacity on other routes also including the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and

Nicobar and Lakshwadeep islands. Regional airlines are also being encouraged to airlink unconnected districts and towns of tourists interest.

Target Fixed for Telephone Lines

231. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for providing telephone lines in the country during the current year, circle-wise

(b) the percentage of the projection met till date.

(c) the names of the telecom circles which are behind the targets stating the reasons for the shortfall in the targets; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the annual target for telephone lines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The target fixed for providing telephone lines in the country during the current year (1996-97) is 24.5 lakhs. The circle-wise target is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 29.87 percent of the target is met till 31.10.96.

(c) and (d). Necessary equipments and funds for providing telephone lines have been allotted by the Government to all the Telecom Circles and the equipments have started reaching the sites. It is expected that the target set for 1996-97 is likely to be fully met.

STATEMENT

S.No	Name of Unit	Annual Target 1996-97
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	123000
2.	Assam	18000
3.	Bihar	47000
4.	Gujarat	188000
5.	Haryana	64000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	27000
7.	J & K	23000
8.	Karnataka	133000
9.	Kerala	228000
10.	M.P.	45000
11.	Maharashtra	203000
12.	North-East	18000
13.	Orissa	27000
14.	Punjab	153000
15.	Rajasthan	123000

1	2	3
16.	Tamilnadu	188000
17.	U. Pradesh (E)	80000
18.	U. Pradesh (W)	75000
19.	W Bengal	55000
20.	A. Nicobar	2000
21.	Mumbai	250000
22.	Calcutta	55000
23.	Delhi	250000
24.	Madras	75000
Total		2450000

Handing Over of Mining Rights

232. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mining rights of diamond deposits in several States are being handed over to International mining giant DE BEERS.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on Mineral Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Mineral Concessions are granted by the respective State Government as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder only.

(c) Does not arise.

Adult Channel

233. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of women's Organisations, including the National Federation of Indian Women and YWCA had urged the Government to prevent launching of the country's first adult satellite TV Channel "Plus 21"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. We have received representation on the subject on behalf of a number of women's organisations, including the National Federation of Indian Women and YWCA. A Civil Writ Petition has also been filed in Delhi High Court on the same subject by the National Commission for Women and the matter is subjudice.

Construction of Bridge at Mandavali

234. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract for the construction of a road under bridge at Mandavali in East Delhi between New Delhi to Sahibabad Railway line has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get the construction completed expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The contract for construction of Road Under Bridge at Mandavali was for completion of work upto July, 95. However, work could not be completed on this 'deposit' work of Municipal Corporation of Delhi as there was protracted delay in diversion of road traffic and removal of services like cables and pipes etc. from approaches by State Government agencies concerned inspite of all efforts of Railway. Since contractor was not willing to continue the work the contract was closed. Fresh tenders are under process. Completion of work will depend on State Government agencies removing the services and Municipal Corporation of Delhi depositing balance cost of work.

Purchase of Computers by Delhi Postal Circle

235. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and value of computers purchased by the Delhi Postal Circle during 1994-95, 1995-96 and till date;

(b) whether a large number of computers are lying unutilised;

(c) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) In Delhi Postal Circle, since 1994-95, till date 60 (Sixty) computers at an approximate cost of Rs. 59,14,665/- have been purchased and 49 of these are installed and made operational.

Eleven of the computers mentioned above are in the process of being installed at Palam TMO.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Do not arise, in view of the reply at (b).

Long distance Trains running without Pantry Cars

236. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH D. GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of names of the long distance trains which are running without pantry cars;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties and harassment by the passengers as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing pantry cars in the long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) Catering services to the passengers travelling by the trains which are not provided with Pantry Car facilities are adequately met from the Static Catering Unit at stations enroute. Pantry cars and mobile catering services on long distance trains are provided keeping in view the importance of the train, running time, stoppages, adequacy of catering services from static units enroute, the timings etc. subject to availability of pantry cars and maximum permissible load of the train.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Number and Names of Long Distance Trains with Journey time of more than 30 hrs. running Without Pantry Cars
1	2
1.	1027/1028 Dadar-Gorakhpur Express
2.	1081/1082 BB-CAPE Express
3.	3005/3006 HWH - ASR Mail
4.	3007/3008 Udyan Abha Toofan Express
5.	3151/3152 SDAK-JAT Express
6.	5207/5208 ASR-BJU Express
7.	5209/5210 BJU-ASR Express
8.	4247/4248 CLA-BSE Express
9.	7017/7018 SC-RJT Weekly
10.	9165/9166 Sabarmati Express
11.	6003/6004 Madras Howrah Mail
12.	6017/6018 Himsagar Express (Weekly)
13.	6031/6032 MAS-JAT Express (Tri-weekly)
14.	6331/6332 BBVT-TVC (weekly)
15.	8045/8046 East Coast Express
16.	8689/8690 BKSC/TATA Alleppey Express
17.	8029/8029 HWH-CLA Express

1	2
18	6009/6010 BB-MAS Mail
19	1037/1038 Punjab Mail
20	1457/1458 DRJ-ASR Express
21	1029/1030 Azad Hind Express
22	3009/3010 Doon Express
23	3019/3020 HWH-KTGM Express
24	3049/3050 HWH-ASR Express
25	3111/3112 HWH-DLI Express
26	3307/3308 LDH-DBN Ganga Sutlej Express
27	3413/3414 Farakka Express
28	3417/3418 BGP-CLA (4 days)
29	5213/5214 CLA-CPR (3 days)
30	5063/5064 GKP-BDT Avadh Express
31	7489/7490 CHTS-BSB (weekly)
32	7491/7492 TPTY-BSB (bi-weekly)
33	7057/7058 BSP-CHTS (bi-weekly)
34	7081/7082 CHTS-IND (weekly)
35	6093/6094 MAS/LKO Express (bi-weekly)
36	6635/6636 CLA-MAC Netravati Express
37	8543/8544 NZM-VSKP Samta Express
38	9019/9020 MCT-DDL Express
39	9023/9024 BCT-FZR Janata Express
40	9305/9306 IND-HWH Shipra Express (Tri-weekly)
41	7611/7612 Nanded-Amritsar Express (weekly)

Tourism Promotion Projects in Gujarat

237. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourism promotion projects in Gujarat submitted by the State Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan, so far; and

(b) the amount allocated for each of these projects and the progress of these projects, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) and (b). The Department of Tourism Government of India has sanctioned the following projects in the State of Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan :

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3

1992-93

1.	Camping equipment for Tarnetar	15.90
2.	Publicity Support	5.00
	Total	20.90

1	2	3
1993-94		
1.	Tourist Complex at Nalsarovar	19.68
2.	Cafeteria at Porbandar	14.60
3.	Floodlighting of Somnath Temple	17.46
4.	Two units of Sprit Type land sailing Yacht	4.48
5.	Navratri festival	1.85
6.	Tarnetar Fair	2.69
7.	Publicity Support	5.00
	Total	65.76
1994-95		
1.	Tourist Lodge at Kuda (Bhavnagar Dist.)	14.50
2.	Assistance for brochure on Royal Orient Express	5.00
3.	Tarnetar Festival	1.69
	Total	21.19
1995-96		
1.	Assistance for Kutch Festival	3.52
2.	Assistance for production of Publicity material	4.46
	Total	7.98

Prioritised Projects for the year 1996-97

1.	Floodlighting of Dwarkadheesh Temple at Dwarka	12.66
2.	Refurbishment of monument, Sun-temple at Modhera	8.32
3.	Refurbishment of Monument Step-well at Modhera	8.32
4.	Public conveniences at Ambaji	8.78
5.	Floodlighting of Lakhota Palace Jamnagar	15.00
	Total	53.08

Out of the above projects all the funds sanctioned for festivals, publicity support and purchase of equipment have been completed and the construction projects of tourist complexes are in progress. Except for one project, the detailed proposals of other projects for the year 1996-97 have not been received.

Shortage of Pilots in IA and AI

238. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India have been

facing a lot of difficulties on account of shortage of pilots:

(b) if so, the present position of pilots in each Airline; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the mass resignation of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Air India Airlines have been facing shortage of pilots. While there was no mass resignation of pilots in Air India, Indian Airlines experienced large exodus of pilots prior to 1996

To meet the shortages Air India has been utilising the services of retired pilots on contract basis

The availability of pilots in Indian Airlines has improved considerably due to rationalisation of training schedule, change in carrier pattern of Commanders and introduction of Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme.

Investment in Tourism Sector

239 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Government sources there is a need at present for investment of Rs. 39,100 crores in tourism sector of the country;

(b) if so, the main channels in tourism sector in which this amount is proposed to be invested;

(c) whether the Government have drawn up any phased programme for investment of this amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Department of Tourism prepared a working paper in 1993 enlisting the activities to be taken up by various agencies to attract 5 million tourists to India. According to national estimates, the investment required for the same amounted to Rs. 39,100 crores which was to be shared between Central and State Governments, Public Sector undertakings and the private sector.

The main areas of investment were airports, aircrafts, railways, roads, civil amenities, resorts, accommodations, restaurants, shopping complexes, tourist facilitation centres, convention centres, Human Resource Development and Training. No phased programme has, however, been drawn up for the investment of this amount due to non-availability of resources.

Representations for Direct Air Services

240. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been representations for a

long-time for providing direct air services for Kutch passengers from Mumbai-Ahmedabad to Sharjah and Delhi-Ahmedabad to Muscat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The air service requirements of Kutch passengers are essentially catered through Ahmedabad Airport. Ahmedabad is connected to Dubai via Mumbai/Delhi thrice a week and to Muscat via Mumbai twice a week by Air India services.

[Translation]

Doordarshan Kendras/Relay Centres, Himachal Pradesh

241. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Doordarshan Kendras and relay centres, functioning at present in Himachal Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether this number compares favourably with the national average;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to set up new Doordarshan Kendras for expansion of television network in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(e) whether the requisite staff have been provided for installation and maintenance of HPTs in the State; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). One Programme Production Centre at Shimla and twenty seven TV transmitters of varying power are presently operational in the State of Himachal Pradesh. While the number of TV transmitters in Himachal Pradesh compares favourably with most of the other States, percentage of area and population covered by these transmitters in the State is less than the national average because of hilly terrain which restricts the extent of resultant coverage from the transmitters. However, with a view to further augment TV service in the State, 23 transmitters of varying power are presently under implementation and 7 TV transmitters, including one HPT, are envisaged to be set up in the State subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities. Location-wise details of the existing transmitter projects as also those under implementation/envisaged to be set up in Himachal Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) Yes. Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Location-wise details of TV Transmitter projects in Himachal Pradesh

Existing	Under Imple- mentation	Envisaged
PPC		
Shimla		
HPT		
Kasauli Shimla		HPT Dharamshala
LPT		
Bilaspur Dharamshala Kullu Manali Mandi Shimla (DD-II)	LPT Sujanpur Sunder Nagar Rampur	LPT Ashapuri Mandi (DD II) Naina Devi Kandaghat Dalash Nehri
VLPT		
Ajhu Fort Baijnath Chamba Bandia Bharathi Diar Hamirpur Jogindernagar Kalpa Khara Pathar Kfyiong Palampur Sarkaghat Shivbadar Thanedar Una Veer	VLPT Jahalma Bharmour Dasni Holi Parwanoo Dalhausi Rohru Kotkhai Chaupal Nichar Tissa Chauri Khas Pirbhayanu Jhatingri Kaja Udaipur Awah Devi Karsog Banjar Chunaghai	

Xser

Rajgarh
Solani

[English]

Closed Unit of Remington Rand in West Bengal

242. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting on closed unit of

Remington Rand of West Bengal was held in Delhi in August, 1996;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the progress in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) A meeting was held in the Ministry of Labour on 22-8-96 at New Delhi with a view to exploring the possibility of reopening the closed unit of Remington Rand India Ltd.

During the meeting it was decided that the Management will send their proposal to the concerned trade unions who will in turn send their response to the appropriate authority which is the State Government of West Bengal. Accordingly, the response of the trade unions to the management's proposal has been communicated to the Government of West Bengal for appropriate action.

Illegal Calls

243. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about a news regarding making some foreign calls by some of the employees of Kinwat Telephone Exchange in Nanded district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Rs. 80,000 has been recovered from some employees of this exchange for making illegal calls to foreign destinations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the case has been handed over to vigilance deptt. for further investigation; and

(f) if so, the details of the case and further action taken against the employees concerned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). The matter is being investigated and after completion of the same the detailed reply will be placed on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Foremen Training Institute in Bihar

244. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of Foremen Training Institute (FTI) at Adityapur - Kandra main road in West Singhbhum (Bihar) is pending for the last seven years;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for its completion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It may be possible to take up construction work of the FTI building only after sufficient funds have been located for the purpose.

Telephone Connections in Bihar

245. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons applied for telephone connections in Bihar during the last two years, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons to whom telephone connections have been provided during the last two years and the number of persons yet to be provided with telephone connection, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more telephone connections in the State particularly in Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being compiled and will be placed on the table of the House.

Survey for Third Railway Track

246. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for the construction of third rail track between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to reduce the pressure of rail traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for construction of a 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad has recently been completed and the survey report is under examination in the Ministry. Further action would be considered once the results of the survey are finalised.

[English]

Shortage of Steel

247. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government to meet the shortage; and

(d) the ex-factory price, the CIF and FOB price of import and export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The stockyard price is a better index as compared to ex-factory price while drawing a comparison with the cost of import. The stockyard prices of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), indicative CIF prices and landed cost of imports of some of the items of steel in September '96 were as under :

	(Rs. per tonne)		
	Stockyard Prices	CIF Prices	Landed Cost of Imports
Wire Rod IS-2062 (6 mm)	16356	11930	18392
Beams 125x70	16471	15789	24277
Plates (22 mm)	21646	17183	26417
HR Coils 3 15 DD (K)	19058	13684	20264
CR Coils 0.63 DD (K)	24061	18246	28023
GP Sheets (0.63 mm)	27657	21403	32838

Export price of iron and steel depends upon several factors such as demand in the domestic and international markets, prevailing domestic and international prices, exchange rate of rupee vis-a-vis other foreign currencies, incentives available for export etc.

[Translation]

Halt of Train at Dihri-on-Sone Railway Station

248. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the train running from Gaya to Dihri-on-Sone remains halted at Dihri-on-Sone for eleven hours;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend this train upto Garhwa, up and down; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Gaya-Dehri-on-Sone Passenger has a lie over period of 9 hours and 55 minutes at Dehri-on-Sone.

(b) Its extension to Garhwa Road is presently not feasible due to operational reasons.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Doordarshan Kendra, Kerala

249. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Allappadi Doordarshan Kendra of Kerala is under construction;

- (b) if so, the progress made so far; and
 (c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A suitable site for the LPT project at Attappadi in Pallakhad district of Kerala has been taken over and departmental works are in progress. As per the present indications, the installation work on the project is expected to be completed by March, 1997.

[Translation]

Poor Maintenance of Telephone in Maharashtra

250. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone facilities in a number of villages in Maharashtra are on the verge of closure due to its poor maintenance;

(b) if so, the schemes of the Government for maintaining the telephones in goodshape;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace the old cross-bar system with fully electronic system in the State; and

(d) if so, the time by which the cross-bar system is likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Only some village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been reported faulty.

(b) The Telecom Circles have been asked to enter into Annual Maintenance contracts with the manufacturers. To monitor the performance of VPTs rigorous testing procedure have been prescribed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) By the end of 9th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Completion of Railway Projects in North-Eastern States

251. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the physical progress of the different railway projects in North Eastern States;

(b) the names of the projects proposed to be completed during the current years; and

(c) the details of allocation made during the current year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (c). Different Railway Projects in North Eastern States :

Progress of Railway Projects in N.E. States :

Name of the Project	Physical Progress	Budget Allocation in current year
New Lines		
1. Jogighopa-Guwahati Rail-cum-Road Bridge across Brahmaputra at Jogighopa alongwith BG Railway Line from Jogighopa to Guwahati.	i. Overall Progress 72.30%. ii. Rail-cum-Road-Bridge 94%. iii. Railway Line 51.05%.	27.00 crores
2. Kumarghat-Agartala	Nil	01.00 crores
3. Dudhnoi-Deepa	Nil	05.00 crores
Gauge Conversion		
4. Lumding to Dibrugarh including link branches (628 kms)	47.2%	88.00 crores
5. New Guwahati-Lumding including Chaparmukh-Haibargaon linked branch (202.11 Km)	99.5%	05.19 crores
6. Lumding-Silchar including new alignment between Migrendisa - Ditokcherra (198 Km)	Nil	10.00 crores

(b) The following project will be completed in the current year :

Dimapur-Dibrugarh-Tinsukia-Lekhapani Gauge Conversion project.

Project for Computerisation of entire Freight Operation

252. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether eleven years ago the Indian Railways gave a green signal to an ambitious Rs. 1079 crores project for computerisation of its entire freight operation by 1991;

(b) if so, whether after spending more than 134 crores the operation remains today manually controlled;

(c) if so, whether in 1985, the Government had set up the centre for Railway information system which was to design, develop and implement the freight operation information system;

(d) the main reasons for not setting up this centre for operation; and

(e) the total loss incurred due to non-implementation of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) project for the Indian Railways was approved by the Planning Commission in November, 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1098 crore with the stipulation that it should be implemented in the first phase on the Northern Railway. The detailed estimate of the FOIS for the Northern Railway was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 267.2 crore in December, 1992 and the target date for its implementation was 31.12.95.

(b) So far a total expenditure about Rs. 162 crore has been incurred on the project. The project is yet to be completed and until that happens freight operations will have to be manually controlled.

(c) The Centre for Railway Information Centre (CRIS) was set up in 1986 mainly to design, develop and to implement the FOIS.

(d) The software developed so far by the CRIS has been on trial in Delhi area of the Northern Railway. Various problems and deficiencies were encountered in the software during the trials and were attempted to be resolved. Several of these have, however, been persisting. To identify the reasons for this and find solutions, a technical study of the project was entrusted to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi in October, 1995. The IIT report, which evaluates the relevance and utility of the software and recommends guidelines for making the system workable, beneficial and cost effective has been received and is under examination.

(e) While there is delay in implementing the project there has been no cost overrun so far.

Amenities to Passengers at Belur Railway Station

253. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum passenger amenities are not available at Belur railway station, Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps has been taken for providing waiting room, toilets, drinking water, overbridge and to clear the water-pass; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Belur, a suburban railway station is already provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled. Waiting hall, toilets, drinking water facilities and foot-over-bridge are already available at the station.

Late Running of Suburban Trains

254. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the suburban trains of Calcutta are running late daily during the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to run suburban trains in time?

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

(b) and (c). It is the endeavour of the Railways to run trains punctually. However, at times due to certain unavoidable reasons such as Agitations/Bandhs, Miscreant Activities, Accidents, Dislocation due to equipment failures and bad weather etc. trains sometimes, run late. A more intensive monitoring has been initiated to improve the punctuality performance of trains.

Inclusion of Plassey Railway Station in the important tourist Places of West Bengal

255. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Plassey is a historically important station of West Bengal and Railways have failed to include the name of Plassey in the important places/tourist places of West Bengal in the Time Table published by the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether the name of this place has to be included in the Time Table of Eastern Railway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The list of tourist spots published in the Time Table is not comprehensive. However, Plassey will be included from the next Time Table of Eastern Railways.

Waiting List at Calcutta Telephone Exchange

256. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephones connection under Calcutta Telephone Exchange-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to clear this backlog;

(c) the number of persons who got telephone connections during the year upto October, 1996, exchange-wise, and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of the Calcutta Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection under Calcutta telephones exchange-wise is given in the inclosed statement-I.

(b) It is planned to give new connections of at least 55000 lines during the current financial year 1996-97 and the remaining during the year 1997-98 except a few technically non-feasible cases.

(c) The no. of persons who got telephone connections during the year up to October, 1996 exchange-wise is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the Calcutta telephones.

- (1) All the electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be replaced with electronic exchanges for better quality of service. Besides all further expansion is being done only with Digital Electronic Exchanges
- (2) All efforts are being made to upgrade the external plant with the introduction of ducts, use of jelly filled cables and revamping of overhead lines etc. Existing fault prone cables are being replaced to the extent possible.
- (3) All worn out telephone instruments are planned to be replaced with good quality push button instruments.
- (4) Introduction of optical fibre and digital microwave systems in junction media.
- (5) Computerisation of fault repair services.

(6) Upgradation of customer service centres.

(7) Streamlining of Billing operations

STATEMENT-I

Waiting List as on 31.10.1996

S No	Exchange Name	No. of persons on waiting list
1	2	3
1.	Burrabazar EWSD M	387
2.	Central C-AOD	861
3.	Central	1427
4.	Chittaranjan	1826
5.	Circus	1702
6.	Picnic Garden RLU	1410
7.	Alipur RLU	715
8.	Alipur X Bar	710
9.	Amtal RLU	203
10.	Behala E 108M	4358
11.	Behala X Bar	2718
12.	Budge Budge RLU	725
13.	Garden Reach RLU	1058
14.	Jeka RLU	812
15.	Modkhali C. DOT	54
16.	Baishnabghata RLU	826
17.	Baruipur RLU	336
18.	Jadavpur E. 10BM	3841
19.	Jadavpur OCB M	394
20.	Narendrapur RLU	1290
21.	Ranikuthi RLU	3637
22.	Ballygunge Pt. RLU	355
23.	Kalighat E. 10BM	316
24.	Kalighat X Bar	934
25.	Kasba RSU	658
26.	Russa EWSD M	1295
27.	Russa RLU	158
28.	Chowranghee RLU	11
29.	City	869
30.	Tiretta Bazar RLU	43
31.	Tiretta Bazar I	336
32.	Tiretta Bazar II	1201
33.	Tiretta Bazar III	
34.	Barasat RLU	1722
35.	Barrackpore RLU	1894
36.	Betpara RLU	2669

1	2	3	1	2	3
37.	Kalyani RLU	2815	4	Chowringhee RLU	118
38.	Panihati RLU	3612	5	Tiretta Bazar RLU	98
39.	Airport RLU	377	6	Tiretta Bazar III	98
40.	Birati RLU	988	7.	Tiretta Bazar I	120
41.	Dum Dum E 10BM	5907	8.	Tiretta Bazar II	153
42.	Dum Dum X Bar	1644	9.	Central I (E-10-B)	543
43.	Jessore Road RLU	812	10.	Central (EWCD)	1
44.	Lake Town RSU	2525	11	Central II	34
45.	Madhyamgram RLU	620	12.	Burra Bazar	444
46.	Salt Lake EWSD M		13.	Chittranjan I	253
47.	Salt Lake Fetx M		14	Chittranjan II	345
48.	Salt Lake RLU	7959	15.	Circus	748
49.	Salt Lake RSU		16.	Picnic Garden	49
50.	Bagbazar EWSD M	934	17.	Shibpur (E-10-B)	279
51.	Cossipore E 10 B	5228	18.	Shibpur I (X-Bar)	71
52.	East E 10 BM	2484	19.	Golmohar	308
53.	Andul RLU	1063	20.	Ichapur RLU	256
54.	Belurmath RLU	1467	21.	Andul RLU (669)	14
55.	Galmohar RLU	354	22.	Uluberia ILT	4
56.	Ichapur RLU	1636	23	Salkia RLU	354
57.	Salkia RLU	3392	24.	Belurmath RLU	301
58.	Shibpur E. 10 BM	2105	25.	Uttarpara	327
59.	Shibpur X Bar	1390	26.	Uttarpara RLU	313
60.	Uluberia ILT S12	379	27.	Serampor RLU	96
61.	Chandnagar RLU	2359	28	Serampor	36
62.	Chinsurah E 10 BM	2192	29.	Chinsura	107
63.	Serampore X Bar	1798	30.	Chandannagar RLU	618
64.	Serampore RLU	1042	31.	Tribeni RLU	12
65.	Tribeni RLU	702	32	Alipore RLU	213
66.	Uttarpara RLU	2134	33	Alipore	167
67.	Uttarpara X Bar	741	34.	GR RLU	32
			35.	Bally place RLU	353
			36.	Russa RLU	670
			37	Kasba RSU	197
			38.	Kalighat I	305
			39	Kalighat II	54
			40.	Jadavpur	1398
			41.	Jadavpur II	235
			42.	Ranikuthi RLU	225
			43	Narendrapur RLU	127
			44.	Baishnav Ghat RLU	529
			45.	BRP RLU	77
			46.	Behala	667
			47.	Behala II	232
			48.	Joka RLU	59

STATEMENT-II

*Exchange-wise telephone connections provided upto
31.10.96.*

S.No.	Exchange	No.
1	2	3
1.	Telephone Bhawan (EWSD)	1084
2.	Telephone Bhawan (E-10-B)	137
3.	Telephone Bhawan (FETEX)	515

40.	Jadavpur	1398
41.	Jadavpur II	235
42.	Ranikuthi RLU	225
43	Narendrapur RLU	127
44.	Baishnav Ghat RLU	529
45.	BRP RLU	77
46.	Behala	667
47.	Behala II	232
48.	Joka RLU	59

1	2	3
49.	Budge Budge RLU	106
50.	Amtola RLU	56
51.	Nodakhali	1
52.	Salt Lake (FETEX)	215
53.	Salt Lake RLU (E-10-B)	193
54.	Salt Lake (EWSD)	17
55.	East I	836
56.	East II	1
57.	Bagh Bazar	162
58.	Bagh Bazar RLU	503
59.	Bagh Bazar I	1087
60.	Cossipore	593
61.	Dum Dum	1112
62.	Dum Dum II	171
63.	Airport RLU	300
64.	Jessore Road RLU	468
65.	Birati RLU	482
66.	Madhyamgram	733
67.	Barasat RLU	513
68.	Panihati RLU	1015
69.	Barrackpore RLU	441
70.	Bhatpara RLU	77
71.	Kalyani RLU	85

[Translation]

Konkan Railway Project

257. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway project is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to salvage this project?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Proposal to run All Assam bound Trains from Calcutta

258. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run all Assam bound trains from Calcutta with air-brake system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay to change the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express has been provided with air brake rakes and 5659/5690 Kamrup Express will be provided with air brake rakes during the current year. The remaining trains on this section will be gradually taken up for conversion into air brake alongwith other Vacuum brake trains in a phased manner depending upon the availability of air brake stock from Production Units.

Hardships faced by the Passengers of Kerala

259. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the passengers of Kerala while travelling from Howrah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no super fast train running between Howrah and Kerala;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that all the trains from Howrah to Kerala are running via Chennai;

(e) whether any steps are being taken to introduce a superfast train between Howrah and Trivandrum via shortest route;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present, Howrah is connected with Kerala by 4 pairs of weekly express trains viz. 6321/6322 Guwahati-Trivandrum, 6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah, 6313/6314 Guwahati-Cochin and 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Expresses. These services coupled with changeover facilities are by and large catering to the traffic offering between Howrah and Kerala. However, there are periods of extra rush due to festivals, holidays etc.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Due to operational and resource constraints

Trips to Virar of Western Railways

260. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the trips to Virar, Western Railway Local sector are increased by only two out of 52 total increased trips, as per new time-table;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the trips to Virar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 2 pair of Virar bound local trains (EMU) have been increased w.e.f. 1.10.96

(b) Operational and resources constraints.

(c) Additional trips to Virar have not been found feasible. However, the number of 12-car services to/from Virar have been increased by 60 during 1996-97.

Connection of entire Calcutta by Rail

261. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that till now Calcutta is not connected with several places of the country by rail.

(b) if so, the steps to be taken to connect the places like Rajkot, Ghandhidham, Dwarka, Goa, Jaisalmer, Kanyakumari, Bikaner with Calcutta by direct rail services; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No. Sir, Calcutta is well connected by rail.

(b) and (c). Howrah is already connected with Bikaner, Rajkot, Ghandhidham by direct trains/through coaches. Introduction of new trains from Howrah to Dwarka, Goa, Jaisalmer, Kanyakumari has not been found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Construction of Over Bridge at Railway Crossing

262. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gate of railway crossing at Palam Colony, New Delhi generally remains closed due to the gauge conversion work undertaken recently as many trains now pass through the track.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct an over bridge for the smooth flow of road transport over the said railway crossing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Normally the level crossing is kept open to road traffic. Number of closures of level crossing has reduced as number of trains after gauge conversion has reduced.

A proposal of Delhi Development Authority to replace the level crossing by a Road over bridge is under planning as the Delhi Development Authority has not yet completed the requisite preliminaries.

Railway Network

263. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the target growth of railway network in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the achievement was far below the target;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the achievement rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Achievements expected by the end of year 1996-97 under various plan heads, as compared to the targets fixed for the VIII five year plan, are as under :

Plan Head	Target for VIII Plan	Achievement Expected
1. Rolling Stock (Number)		
(i) Locus	1499	1517
(ii) Coaches	9100	9136
(iii) EMUs	1265	1288
(iv) Wagons	120000/99509*	97303+5000 wagons under OYWS in 1996-97
2. Track Renewals (Kms)	12500	13972
3. Gauge Conversion (Kms)	6000/8100*	7033
4. Electrification (Kms)	3000/2700*	2700
5. Doubling (Kms)	1250	1088
6. New Lines (kms)	No Targets	714
	(* Revised Targets)	

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amount Allocated to Maharashtra for Promotion of Tourism

264. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the schematic amount allocated during the

current financial year for the promotion of tourism in Maharashtra:

(b) whether the tourism industry in Maharashtra has registered a large scale progress during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the number of foreign tourists who visited the different tourist places in Maharashtra during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government officials of Maharashtra have identified 6 projects at an estimated cost of Rs.196 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance. These projects are :-

- (1) Aurangabad Holiday Resort, Aurangabad
- (2) Pilgrim for Shirdi
- (3) Konkani Hits at Harihareshwar and Ganapatipule
- (4) Tourist Complex at Kunkeshwar, Tourist Complex-cum-Crafts Centre at Pinguli
- (5) Tourist Complex-cum-water sports complex at Lake Dhampur

(b) and (c) To give impetus to the Tourism industry in Maharashtra, the State Government is providing incentives-concessions to encourage Private Investment on a large scale. So far the State Government has received 55 proposals for private investment amounting to Rs.102 crores.

(d) 8,81,351 foreign tourists visited various places in Maharashtra during the year 1995.

Production/Export of Mica

265. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) the production of mica in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date, state-wise.

(b) the percentage of the above production exported during each of the last three years, and

(c) the countries to which it has been exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per the information available, State-wise production of Mica during 1994-95, 1995-96 and April'96 to Aug.'96 is given below :-

(Qty. in Tonnes)

States	1994-95		1995-96		April'96 to August, 96	
	Crude	Waste & Scarp	Crude	Waste & Scarp	Crude	Waste & Scarp
India	1988	1465	1761	1198	815	611
Andhara Pradesh	783	558	756	359	343	215
Bihar	1138	401	956	318	445	202
Rajasthan	67	506	49	521	27	194

(b) Production reported is of Mica (Crude and Waste & Scarp while that of export consist of unmanufactured and worked Mica i.e. Blocks, Splittings, Condenser Films, Waste & Scarp, Plates Cuts, Washers & Discs, Miacanite and other Built up Mica. Apart from these items large quantities of Mica powder are also exported which constitute 80-85% of the total Mica Export.

(c) Mica is being exported mainly to countries like United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Italy, China, Korea, Singapore, Spain, Hong Kong, Norway, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, etc. The foreign exchange earned during 1994-95, 1995-96 and April'96 to August.

96 has been reported to the tune of Rs.38.7 Crores, Rs.44.0 Crores, and Rs.8.5 Crores respectively.

Growth in Tourism Industry

266. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the current year is witnessing any growth in the tourism industry of the country; and

(b) if so, the percentage of growth achieved so far in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage growth in tourist traffic to India during first ten months of current year as compared to the corresponding period of last year was 7.4

[English]

Revival of IISCO

267. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item appearing in the Economic Times dated October 19, 1996 captioned, IISCO saviours seek time to forward package to SAIL; and

(b) if so, the facts, latest position and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. SAIL has invited offers for participation in the revival/modernisation of IISCO through a joint venture arrangement with SAIL retaining majority share-holding of 51% in the joint venture Company. SAIL have received offers from two parties viz. M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia and M/s. Mitsui of Japan. SAIL had sought extension of time from the BIFR in order to further assess the offers received by them. The BIFR have since granted extension of time to SAIL till 6th January, 1997. The latest position is that M/s. Mitsui of Japan have indicated their unwillingness for equity participation which is an essential requirement for selection of a Joint Venture Partner.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

[Translation]

Derailment of Train

268. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Jammu bound Jhelum Express was derailed on September 14, 1996 at 7 a.m. between Nibaura and Khaira stations and as a result thereof many employees of railway staff died at the spot;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of the accident;

(d) if so, the details of the inquiry alongwith the steps taken against the erring employees and loss of Government equipments etc.; and

(e) the strategy proposed to be followed to avert such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). On 14.9.1996, 8 coaches of Jammu Tawi-Pune Jhelum

Express derailed between Raver and Nimbhora stations on Khandwa-Bhusaval section of Central Railway. In this accident, 1 passenger died, 4 persons sustained grievous injury and 15 others sustained simple injuries.

(c) and (d). This accident is being enquired into by the commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle whose report is awaited. Action under the Discipline & Appeal Rules shall be taken against the persons who will be found responsible after enquiry report is received.

(e) The following measures have been taken to reduce derailments :-

- (i) The track structure is being strengthened. The rails are being converted into long welded rails panels by welding and removing fish plates.
- (ii) The track is maintained by tie tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
- (iii) For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (iv) For detection of hidden flaws in the railway not visible to the naked eye, ultrasonic flaw detectors are used.
- (v) The condition of rolling stock has been improved. Four wheeler wagons are being replaced with better bogie Air brake stock.
- (vi) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, all RCH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
- (vii) The examination pattern of goods and coaching trains has been rationalised.
- (viii) Workshops have been modernised.
- (ix) Safety inspections and safety checks have been intensified.

[English]

New Railway Projects

269. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to launch some new railway projects in the country during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise.

(c) the time by which the above projects are likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has given the approval to the above projects; and

(e) if so, the funds allocated by the Government for these projects?

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

(b), (c) and (e) The details are as under -

New Lines

S.No	Name of the Project	Zone/Railway	Funds allotted in 96-97 (In Crs of Rs.)	Target Date
1	Nandyal-Yerranguntala	South Central	0.50	10th Plan
2	Sakri-Hassanpur	North Eastern	3.00	9th Plan
3	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Sakleshpur	Southern	1.00	9th Plan
4	Haridaspur-Paradeep	South Eastern	1.00	9th Plan
5	Dausa-Gangapur City	Western	0.50	*Work will be taken up after CCEA approval. Target will be fixed once work is taken up.
6	Kumarghat-Agartala	Northeast Frontier	1.00	10th Plan.

Gauge Conversion :

1	Mansi-Saharsa	North Eastern	08.00	31.12.97
2	Hajipur-Bachwara	North Eastern	10.67	31.12.97
3	Lumding-Silchar	Northeast Frontier	10.00	10th Plan
4	Mysore-Hassan (95-96 budget but CCEA clearance given now)	Southern	01.00	30.06.97
5	Rupsa -Bangriposi (-do-)	South Eastern	00.50	9th Plan

(d) Yes, Sir. Except 5 above which has been deferred.

Chitradurga, Shimoga, Hassan and Mysore districts of Karnataka.

Exploration of Gold

270. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the gold exploration at Ooty in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of drilling for exploration of gold in the State;

(c) the estimated gold reserves in that area; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploration of gold in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gold Exploration has been carried out by GSI in Uti area of Karnataka.

(b) A total of 9156.95 metres in 74 boreholes has been drilled in Uti area, in Uti and Uti Temple Blocks. Drilling for exploration of gold has also been carried out by GSI in Raichur, Kolar, Dharwar, Tumkur,

(c) The gold reserves of 0.884 Million Tonnes (Probable Reserve) of ore with 2.04 to 18.95 gram/tonne of gold upto 130 m depth and with widths varying from 1.00 to 7.32 m has been estimated.

(d) The exploration through drilling and pitting and trenching geochemical and geophysical methods is continuing in Nagavi North-Mallasamudra blocks in Dharwar district, Chinmulgund, Kalledevar-Hosahonatti and Karjagi blocks of Shimoga Schist Belt, Darwar District, Gonnur Block, Chitradurga district and adjacent areas of Bellerra Mines, Tumkur District of Chitradurga Schist Belt and in Valageri-ambale area in Mysore district.

Relay Stations of AIR

271. SHRI S. RAMA CHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up three relay stations of AIR at Sompeta, Kakinada and Nellore

to cover the shadow regions beyond Orissa. Andhra Pradesh border to apprise fishermen of weather bulletins in time.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The coastal area of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh fall within the coverage zone of the High Power Transmitters at Cuttack, Vijaywada and Vishakhapatnam and FM Transmitters at Puri and Berhampur in Orissa, which cater to the needs of the listeners including fishermen by broadcasting of weather bulletins and warnings about cyclonic storm etc., round the clock.

Setting up of Steel Plants at Gopalpur (Orissa)

272. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the sites selected by different private companies as well as public sector undertakings to set up steel plants at Gopalpur in Orissa.

(b) the land acquired by those companies for the purpose;

(c) whether the decision has been taken for shifting of the old locations of the Steel Plants;

(d) if so, the details of the new locations; and

(e) the reasons for taking such decision?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the State Government of Orissa, two companies in the private sector namely Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO) and Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) have selected sites to set up steel plants at Gopalpur. The possession of 537 888 acres of land has been handed over to TISCO for rehabilitation colony and for the remaining requirement, land acquisition is in progress. In case of R&T's project, notification under the L.A. Act is in process.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Vulgarity in Films

273. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any

study report in regard to vulgarity in films as reported in 'Pioneer' dated August 29, 1996:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such reports received during each of the last three years; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). No study report on the subject of vulgarity in films has been received by Government in the last three years. Earlier, in the eighties, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (I.I.M.C.) conducted audience reaction surveys and study of film censorship and submitted four reports. However, in accordance with the recommendations of the Estimates Committee (10th Lok Sabha) and the Standing Committee on Communications, it was decided in April 1996 to entrust a study on "Sex and violence in films and its impact on society" to the I.I.M.C. The terms of reference of the study were determined in consultation with the Central Board of Film Certification and expenditure sanction of Government for the study was issued in August 1996. The I.I.M.C. will complete the study within one year from the date of commencement.

[English]

Number of ITI Plants

274. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of plants set up by Indian Telephone Industry in the country location-wise;

(b) the different kinds of parts/equipments being produced in these plants at present;

(c) whether all the parts and equipments required for the Telecommunication sector in the country are produced in those plants; and

(d) if so, the performance of ITI during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The plants set up by ITI and the items produced are as follows :-

Plants		Items
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore Complex (Karnataka)	Switching, Transmission & Opto - Electronics Equipment, Terminal Eqt. Control Systems, Micro Electronics.
2.	Naini, Allahabad (UP)	Telephone Instruments, Transmission equipment Opto-electronics equipment

1	2	3
3.	Srinagar (J&K)	Telephone Instruments
4.	Rai Bareilly (UP)	C-DOT, E-10B Sub-assemblies, Transmission equipment, Switch made Power Supply & Mechanical parts.
5.	Palakkad (Kerala)	OCB-283 Core Equipment & Digital Trunk Exchanges.
6.	Mankapur, Gonda(UP)	E-10B & OCB Exchanges.
7.	Electronic City Unit, Bangalore.	C-DOT Products.

(c) The company manufactures most of the major equipment required for the Telecom Sector.

(d) The financial performance of the Company during the last three years was :

	1993-94	1994-95 (Rs. in Crores)	1995-96
Turnover	1527.25	1036.62	782.62
Profit/Loss	84.35	(-) 81.91	(-) 283.96

Contribution to Bekal Resort Development Corporation Limited

275. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to contribute at least Rs.10.00 crores as equity in Bekal Resort Development Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to preserve and beautify the Bekal Fort; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). The Department of Tourism, Government of India has provided an amount of Rs.1.90 crores to Government of Kerala for the Bekal project.

(c) and (d). Bekal fort is part of the Bekal Tourism project. The Government of Kerala aims at an integrated development of the entire area.

Increase in Accidents of Trains

276. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether train accidents and derailments have

increased during the last six months resulting inconvenience to the travelling commuters;

(b) if so, the details of trains accidents and derailments took place in each zone, location-wise till date;

(c) the main causes of these accidents and derailments;

(d) the number of persons killed and injured therein, trains cancelled/diverted and loss incurred by railways by each of these accidents;

(e) whether the credibility of the railways have been eroded and the Government have failed to take any concrete steps in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Number of consequential train accidents during the period May 1996 to October 1996 was 183 as compared to 190 during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The main reasons for the accidents were human failure (including other than railway staff), equipment failure, sabotage, etc.

(d) 9 passengers and railway staff lost their lives and 71 sustained injury in these accidents. In addition, 125 persons (other than passengers and railway staff) died and 96 injured mainly in manned and unmanned level crossing accidents. The cost of damage to railway property amounted to Rs.20.59 crores (approx.). Information regarding number of trains cancelled/diverted on account of these accidents is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. Safety is always accorded a very high priority in train operations and Railways have taken concrete steps to improve safety.

Doubling of Railway Line between Hospet and Hubli

277. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for doubling the railway line between Hospet and Hubli in the Ongoing Gadag-Hotgi line;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Licence on TV Sets

278 SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the licensing system on television sets;

(b) if so, whether a Committee has been set up in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Exodus of Doordarshan Officials

279 SHRI R. L. P. VERMA :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of officials of the Doordarshan are joining foreign TV network by seeking premature retirement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the officials who have joined foreign TV network with/without seeking permission of the Government; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A number of Doordarshan officials have recently sought voluntary retirement/resigned from service on personal grounds.

(c) and (d). Government are not aware of their joining foreign TV networks as none of these officers has sought the requisite permission.

[English]

Electrification of Track between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam

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

(a) the progress made in regard to electrification of track work between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam; and

(b) the time by which electrification work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). As on 31.10.96, out of the total of 366 route kilometre in the Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section, 201 route kilometre have been electrified. The electrification of entire section is planned for completion by March, 97.

Konkan Railway Project

281. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI P. C. THOMAS :
SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T. :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of routes and main cities proposed to be connected with rail link under the Konkan Railway Project alongwith the work completed thereon so far;

(b) the time by which the Konkan Railway Project is likely to be completed and made available for passengers as well as goods traffic;

(c) whether the construction work on doubling the line on Shornur - Mangalore and on other lines has been entrusted to the Konkan Railway Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Konkan Railway passes through the following important cities/towns :

Roha, Khed, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavli, Kudal, Sawantwadi (Sawantwadi Road), Mapusa Road, Old Goa, Madgaon, Karwar, Honnavar, Kumta, Bhatkal, Kundapura, Udupi and Suratkal.

The Sections from Roha to Ratnagiri (203 kms) and Mangalore to Kundapura (100 kms) has already been opened for passenger services and Ratnagiri to Sawantwadi (160 kms) section has also been completed and is expected to be opened for passenger services by mid December, 1996.

As such, the whole project is likely to be completed for goods services and passenger services by March, 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign TV Network

282. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mauritius TV software company has been allowed with association with another company based on Mauritius to assume 100 per cent control of its Indian subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Restructuring of ITI Limited

283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Proposal to restructure the ailing Public Sector Telecom giant ITI Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some companies have submitted their offers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Mainly on account of competitive environment and fall in prices of telecom equipment, ITI suffered losses during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Therefore, with a view to conduct an indepth study of the organisation and adopt changes to turn around the company is considering a proposal to engage a suitable consultancy firm. The restructuring and strategies are being considered with reference to business of the Company, its organisation and financial aspects.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The following Companies have submitted offers :-

1. M/s Arthur D. Little, Bombay
2. M/s Richer Consultancy Services, Delhi
3. M/s Coopers & Lybrand, Bombay
4. M/s COSMODE, Hyderabad
5. M/s SFCG, Division of KPMG Peat Marwick, Bombay
6. M/s Price Waterhouse, New Delhi
7. M/s ICICI, Bombay

The Government is considering the proposal of ITI for appointing a consultancy firm.

Eligibility of Bonus

284. SHRI AJAY CHAKARABORTY :
SHRI A.C. JOSE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers in the industries to which

the payment of Bonus Act is applicable have been demanding to amend the present Act so as to abolish the eligibility ceiling for payment of Bonus;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to amend the Bonus Act in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Central Government have been receiving representations from trade unions for abolition/revision of eligibility limit in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

(b) and (c). The Act was last Amended only in 1995 raising the eligibility limit from Rs.2500/- per month to Rs.3500/- per month and Calculation ceiling from Rs.1600/- per month to Rs.2500/- per month. There is no proposal for further amending the Act at present

[Translation]

Training Centre of Indian Institute of Mass Communications

285. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Indian Institute of Mass Communications training centre at district Jhabhua in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Land for IIMC branch at Jhabua has been acquired by the institute. It is proposed to include the construction of buildings in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Air Space Facility to India

286. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of signing bilateral agreement some countries are not allowing India to use their air space;

(b) if so, the names of those countries;

(c) whether the Government have raised the issue with those countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Some of the Arab Countries like

Oman, U.A.E., Bahrain and Saudi Arabian are presently not permitting flights over their airspace for operation of air services into and out of Isreal. For Air India's operations to Isreal, a shorter route is available over Saudi Arabia. Although the question of overflight permission was taken up with the Saudi Arabian Government, this has not been granted so far.

[English]

Regularisation of Samta Express

287. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations/requests for regularisation of Samta Express from thrice weekly, provision of 3rd AC coach and pantry car;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on such representations/requests; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be regularise and other provisions will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) and (d). Pantry car on 8543/8544 Samta Express is being provided shortly. Deployment of AC 3-tier coach on this train is technically not feasible as the train is running with Vacuum Brake rakes whereas AC 3-tier coaches are having Air Brake System. One AC 2nd sleeper coach has, however, been provided on this train from 2.10.96. Daily running of the train is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Peripheral Works to Private Sector

288. SHRI CHITTA BASU
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways have since been given certain "Peripheral Works" to the private sector; and

(b) if so, details of the peripheral works handed over to the private sector till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Only off-line activities like new catering services, marketing and management of tourist trains and operation of cloak rooms etc. have been opened for private sector participation.

[Translation]

Circuit to the Detective Agencies

289. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the terms and conditions of the tender of cellular, there has been a provision to provide circuit to the Detective Agencies of the country on main Switching Centre in each city or circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the cellular companies have given their consent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the names of the companies which have not given their consent; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Cellular Service being provided by the Companies who have been granted licences for the same, is governed by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per the provision in section 5 (2) of the Act, the licensee is required to provide necessary facilities to the designated authorities of Central/State Governments for interception of messages passing through his network.

Section 5 (2) of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 reads as under :

"On the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Govt. or a State Govt. or any officer specially authorised in their behalf by the Central Govt. or a State Govt. may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offense for reasons to be recorded by the order, direct that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order an officer thereof mentioned on the order : provided that press messages intended to be published in India of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this subsection."

(c) to (f). All the licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are governed by the provisions mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Integrated Telephone Exchange System

290. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations recently from Members of Parliament about the need for covering Panagarh/Bud Bud to Barakat/Chittaranjan area under an Integrated Telephone Exchange System like other Metropolises.

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon.

(c) whether demand from entire industrial and coal-belt of Asansol-Durgapur area for the same system has also been received.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A joint representation dated 10.9.96 signed by a number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament has been received requesting that the exchanges located at Durgapur, Raniganj, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Industrial and coal belt areas of Bankura, Adra etc. are covered through an Intergrated Exchange system. This request has been examined.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) As per the existing policy of the Department, an integrated exchange system also called group dialling system can be provided only within the same short distance charging area which roughly corresponds to a Tehsil. Since Durgapur, Raniganj, Asansol and Chittaranjan are located in different short distant charging areas, they cannot have an integrated system. However, a new technology OCB 283 exchange with a capacity of 11000 lines has been commissioned in March, 96 for connecting Durgapur SDCA exchanges. A similar large exchange of 14000 lines capacity has been planned for Asansol SDCA to cover exchanges at Barakar, Neamatpur, Chittaranjan, Raniganj and Burnpur.

Agro Channel on Doordarshan

291. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal in under consideration of

the Government to launch a separate AGRO channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Train

292. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 321 up and 322 down Manmad-Daund-Mumbai Passenger Train viably running for last 50 years has since been cancelled without any reason;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government are aware of losses being suffered by the farmers living along this line due to cancellation of this train;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal with the Government to re-introduce this train; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The run of 1321/1322 Bombay (Mumbai)-Pune-Daund-Manmad Passenger train has been curtailed only on Bombay (Mumbai)-Pune section w.e.f. 1.5.88 to generate line capacity for running of 1021/1022 Mumbai-Pune Indrayani Express.

(c) to (e). Some representations have been received about the restoration of this train.

There is no proposal to run this train to its original pattern. However, for the convenience of passengers of Daund-Manmad, a through coach is available between Daund and Mumbai via Ahmednagar-Manmad.

[English]

MOU with US

293. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telecom Industry Services Association has signed a MOU with US body for telecom training; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The Telecommunication Industry and Services Association of India has informed the Government that a Honorary and Friendly

Membership Agreement has been signed with Telecommunication Industry Association of USA to exchange an Honorary and Friendly Membership Certificate between two associations and to engage in variety of co-operative activities including exchanging visit, views, key publications, encouraging members of each association to participate in Telecommunication Exhibition or Seminar sponsored by other association.

The Government has no role to play in this matter.

Amendment in New Pension and ESI Schemes

294. SHRI S.B. THORAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the National Trade Union Organisations seeking amendment in the new pension and ESI schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of changes/amendments under consideration/finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Government had received suggestions for making certain changes in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. The suggestions inter-alia relate to removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widows and remarrying widowers, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs 5,000/- per month, provision for commutation, education in discounting rate for early payment of pension, provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases, application of the scheme to the subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of Family pension-related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption and coverage of piece-rated workers. These suggestions have since been examined and notification carrying out necessary amendments in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 has already been issued on 28.2.1996. Other suggestions like providing individual option, linking pension with the consumer's price index and giving pension as a third benefit have not been found actually feasible for acceptance.

2. The suggestions received about the ESI Scheme relate to increase in wage limit for coverage, enhancement in the per capita medical expense, provision of the Central Government's contribution towards the ESI Scheme, maintenance of Status-quo in respect of the workers' contributions etc. A draft notification providing inter-alia for enhancement in the wage ceiling from Rs 3,000/- to 6,500/- per month and for enhancement of the rate of contribution of the employer from 4% to 4.75% and for employee from 1.50% to 1.75% of the monthly wage has since been issued for inviting objections/Suggestions from all concerned.

Child Labour

295. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of implementation of programmes aimed at eliminating child labour/child labour in hazardous industries;

(b) if so, the effective initiatives taken by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the achievements made and the funds provided utilised for the purpose during the above period, State-wise in general and Metro cities in particular; and

(d) the number of employers prosecuted under the Labour Act for employing children?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of child labour. As a part of the National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987, project based action plan has been initiated in the areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage, quasi-wage employment. A major activity undertaken under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) is establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary, nutrition, stipends etc. to the children withdrawn from employment.

The number of NCLPs implemented during 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 9 and 12 with a coverage of 7000 and 14000 children respectively. A major programme was announced in August, 1994 to rehabilitate child labour working in hazardous occupations. As a follow up of the programme, Government is presently engaged in the task of rehabilitation of about 2 million children, working in hazardous occupations by the year 2002. During 1995-96, 76 child labour projects were sanctioned for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations in 11 child labour endemic states. State-wise details regarding these 76 projects are given in the enclosed Statement. The total expenditure incurred on all the National Child Labour Projects taken together during the last 3 years is as under :

Year	Expenditure
1993-94	2.89 crores
1994-95	1.43 crores
1995-96	33.90 crores

(d) According to the available information, 415 employers were prosecuted during 1995-96 for violation

of the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of 76 National Child Labour Projects sanctioned by the Government

S.No.	Name of State	No. of projects	No. of Schools	No. of children to be covered
1	Andhra Pradesh	20	807	43 550
2	Bihar	8	174	12 200
3	Gujarat	2	40	2 000
4	Karnataka	3	100	5 000
5	Madhya Pradesh	5	138	9 800
6	Maharashtra	2	74	3 677
7	Orissa	16	430	33 000
8	Rajasthan	2	60	3 000
9	Tamilnadu	8	379	19 500
10	Uttar Pradesh	4	130	9 000
11	West Bengal	6	219	12 000

Survey Work

296. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey work in Kerala included in 1995-96 budget has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether survey of Thakazhy-Tiruvalla-Pathanamthitta, Kayamkulam-Adoor-Punalur and Chengannur-Adoor lines has been undertaken; and

(d) if so, the time by which the survey report is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Within the current financial year.

Telephone Advisory Committee of Tripura

297. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria being followed for the nomination of Telephone Advisory Committee members;

(b) whether the State Government of Tripura has send any concrete proposal regarding the formation of TAC;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the composition of the TAC of Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Appointments to TAC are made after taking into account the recommendations made by the Heads of Telecom Circle/MPs, MLAs and the representation received by the DOT Head Quarters.

The TAC members should belong to one of the following categories :

1. State Legislature.
2. Press.
3. Medical Profession.
4. Legal Profession.
5. All other professions like Engineers/Architects etc.
6. Trade, Commerce and Industries.
7. Public workers and others.
8. MPs are nominated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs under the category of MPs.
9. State Administration.
10. Corporation/Civic Body.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No TAC has been constituted for the State of Tripura. However, there is a TAC constituted for Agartala which consists of members drawn from various parts of Tripura. The composition of the TAC is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

List of Categories/Professions represented in a TAC

Categories	Existing Strength
1	2
1. Members of Parliament	two (to be nominated by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs)
2. State Legislature	Seven
3. State Administration	one
4. Corporation/Civic Body	one (to be nominated)

1	2
5. Press	one
6. Medical Profession	one
7. Legal Profession	one
8. All other Profession like Engineers/Architects etc.	one
9. Trade, Commerce and Industry	five
10. Public workers and others	forth three

Shortage of Rail Coaches in Trivandrum Division

298 SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute shortage of rail coaches in Trivandrum Division which cause much difficulties for the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Adequate number of coaches are available with Trivandrum Division to cater to the present level of traffic requirements.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Express Trains at Khurja Junction

299. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the express trains passing through Khurja junction in Uttar Pradesh have no stoppage at that junction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide stoppage for these express trains at Khurja junction.

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) For lack of traffic justification and operational problems.

(c) There is no proposal at present to stop additional trains at Khurja.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[English]

Safety of Indian Railways

300. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of representations for improving the safety of Indian Railway from All India Loco Running Staff Association during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Railways accord highest priority to safety in train operations. The suggestions made by them are examined and necessary action is taken on their merits.

[Translation]

Dalli-Rajhara-Bailadila Railway Line

301. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dalli-Rajhara-Bailadila railway line has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on this line is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The work has been included in the Railway Budget.

(b) After the MOU is signed with Ministry of Steel and M.P. Government and the Ministry of Steel deposit the amount required for construction of Phase-I of this line from Dallirajhara to Rowghat which is to be funded at their cost.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Telecom Facilities in Tribal Areas

302. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telecom facilities in the backward regions and particularly in the tribal areas of the country on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/area-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). To provide satisfactory telecommunication services as an input into the process of overall development of tribal areas of the country, the Department has been adopting

a strategy of drawing programmes in the form of telecommunication Tribal Sub Plan as a separate component of main plan of the department.

In addition, the Government propose to provide telephone in every village by the year 2000 to benefit the rural population including backward regions.

Increase of Air Fare

303. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the fare of Indian Airlines since October 96.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent to which the surplus income likely to be earned by the Indian Airlines due to increase in fare?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

New Mining Policy

304. SHRI ANNA SAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised New Mining Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objective of policy changes and its likely impact in terms of fresh investment and employment generation, State-wise; and

(d) the target set for fresh investment from the Government, private sector, foreign direct investment and foreign financial institutions for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The National Mineral Policy was announced in March, 93 and laid on the Table of the House on 5th March, 1993.

(c) The objectives of the policy are as follows :

- to explore for identification of mineral wealth in the land and in off-shore areas;
- to develop mineral resources taking into account the national and strategic considerations and to ensure their adequate supply and best use keeping in view the present needs and future requirements;
- to promote necessary linkages for smooth and uninterrupted development of the

mineral industry to meet the needs of the country;

- to promote research and development in minerals;

- to ensure establishment of appropriate educational and training facilities for human resources development to meet the manpower requirements of the mineral industry;

- to minimise adverse effects of mineral development on the forest, environment and ecology through appropriate protective measures; and

- to ensure conduct of mining operations with due regard to safety and health of all concerned.

It is expected that the policy will encourage private investments both domestic and foreign and result in increase in employment opportunities.

(d) The Government has not fixed any target for the current financial year.

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

305. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Maharashtra during the year 1995-96 and till date, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons in waiting-list in the State upto June, 1996 district-wise;

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be exhausted, district-wise;

(d) the number of additional telephone lines likely to be provided during this year to meet the demand, district-wise;

(e) whether some of the telephone exchanges in the State are not functioning properly;

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(g) the steps taken to modernise these telephone exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per Statement enclosed.

(b) As per Statement enclosed.

(c) The existing waiting list is likely to be cleared by 1997-98 except in a few cases due to technical non-feasibility.

(d) As per Statement enclosed.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

(g) All those exchanges whose life is expired are being replaced by modern electronic exchanges in a phased manner.

STATEMENT

District	Para 'a' Telephone Provided		Para 'b' Waiting list upto June '96	Para 'd' Additional Telephone lines to be provided during the year 1996-97
	1995-96	1996-97 upto 31.10.96		
Raigad	7507	5211	6516	7000
Jalgaon	8569	1716	10616	5800
Nasik	12638	2970	22829	15300
Dhule	2302	990	12634	4700
Kolhapur	20294	3057	9706	4400
Solapur	6402	2701	8581	8800
Satara	3900	1608	6973	5800
Sangli	9009	3108	13155	7000
Ratnagiri	3323	450	5132	1800
Sindhudurg	1705	362	2696	1500
A'Nagar	9200	1969	12634	9200
A'bad	8110	2118	8749	7600
Jalana	1512	257	1418	700
Latur	5390	1455	3411	3000
Osmanabad	1710	638	1379	1200
Nanded	3010	312	2040	2700
Parbhani	2173	868	1391	1600
Beed	2520	326	1324	1700
Pune	33042	17810	54220	39500
Goa	21126	1045	12968	10000
Nagpur	22050	5369	13258	13000
Kalyan	12280	1444	57301	36000
Akola	5286	1663	2670	3900
Amravati	4702	1243	3457	3700
Bhandara	2467	962	1765	1100
Buldhana	2220	466	1540	1000
Chandrapur	2053	737	2397	2500
Gadchiroli	215	116	348	
Wardha	1569	1351	1751	1500
Yeotamal	1680	352	2420	1000

Capacity Utilisation in Haryana

306. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Haryana where the capacity utilisation is below optimum utilisation level;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the capacity utilisation;

(d) the number of villages in Haryana where telephone facility is not available, district-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide the telephone facility to those villages;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the number of letters received by the Government for providing telephone facilities in the villages from the Members of Parliament from Haryana; and

(h) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). In Haryana Telecom Circle, there are 599 telephone exchanges mostly in the rural areas where the installed capacity is not presently utilised fully. The major reason being that as per departmental policy, a new exchange in a rural area is opened based on a registered demand of only 10 connections. This is to encourage and augment communication facility in rural areas of the country. The minimum installed capacity of such exchanges is 56/88 lines, which is filled up progressively as the demand for more connections is received. Some capacity is also to be kept unutilised for technical reasons including testing and maintenance purpose and also to meet urgent unforeseen demands. Efforts are always made to load these exchanges to their optimum level.

(d) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. All the villages are planned to be covered during 1996-97.

(g) No letters have been received from Members of Parliament from Haryana, in this regard.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of District	No. of villages not provided with Telephone facilities
1.	Ambala (including Panchcula)	39
2.	Bhiwani	72
3.	Faridabad	145
4.	Gurgaon	358
5.	Hissar	5
6.	Jind	31
7.	Karnal	121
8.	Kaithal	159
9.	Kurukshetra	111
10.	Mahendergarh	130
11.	Panipat	69
12.	Rewari	76
13.	Rohtak	40
14.	Sirsa	3
15.	Sonepat	3
16.	Yamunanagar	300
	Total	1562

Norms to Improve Safety of Private Airlines

307. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up norms to improve safety standards of private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of inspections conducted by the safety audit team of Director General, Civil Aviation during the last one year and action taken in the matter where deficiencies were observed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Safety norms are laid down in various regulatory documents. These are applicable to all airlines, including private airlines. The safety norms are continuously updated.

(c) During the last one year (from October 1995 till date) Directorate General of Civil Aviation carried out the safety audit of Jagson Airlines, Mesco Airlines and Air India. The deficiencies pointed out in the safety audit were brought to the notice of the operators for taking necessary remedial in-house measures.

Declaration of Sunderbans as an International Tourist Spot

308. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to declare 'Sunderbans' of West Bengal as an International Tourist Spot; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Development of Tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Department of Tourism extends financial assistance every year for the projects received from the State Governments, including West Bengal, on the basis of their merits and inter se priority. During 1988-89, Rs. 49.50 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government of West Bengal to purchase a cruise vessel for the Sunderbans.

Tourism Industry Affected by Dengue Epidemic

309. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism industry was adversely affected by the out-break of Dengue epidemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total loss suffered by the tourism industry due to this epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The tourist arrivals during the month of October 1996 registered an overall increase of 2.8% over the corresponding month of previous year. It is, however, difficult to estimate the exact impact of Dengue on tourist arrivals on the whole.

Extension of Fare Concession Benefits to Senior Citizens

310. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands for extending the fare-concession benefits permissible to senior citizens in respect of different classes of rail travel above the second class travel and also to raise the concession to 50%.

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

(c) the estimated loss of revenue per annum, in case the fare concession to senior citizens are extended in respect of the travels upto the second AC two-tier and three tier?

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

(b) and (c). The Railways are already granting 25% concession in second and sleeper class without any distance limit to senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above, as a special case despite diminishing budgetary support. If the concession to senior citizens is extended to higher classes, the estimated loss of revenue would be approximately Rs. 70 crores per annum. Keeping in mind the increasing cost of operation, maintenance of trains, etc., any further relaxation is not possible due to financial constraints.

Welfare Schemes for Workers

311. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers in organised sector in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government have agreed to provide funds for the welfare schemes taken by the State Government for the workers during 1995-96;

(c) if so, the details of schemes implemented alongwith the assistance provided therefor; and

(d) the schemes awaiting central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the Government of Gujarat and will be laid on the table of the House.

Declaration and Inclusion of Certain Places in Tourist Spots

312. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to declare and include the historical and philosophical

places like Chitrakut, Amarkantak, Devtalab and Mathar of Madhya Pradesh and Ayodhya hills of Parulia in the list of the tourist spots to attract the foreign tourists.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Declaration of Tourist Spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, however the Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for specific projects to the State Governments based on their merits, inter-se priority and availability of funds. The Department of Tourism has provided funds for the construction of a Cafeteria, a Yatri Niwas at Chitrakut and a Yatrika at Amarkantak.

Tourism Infrastructure in Ajanta and Ellora

313. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to strengthen the tourism infrastructure in Ajanta and Ellora and the expenditure incurred as a result thereof during the last two years;

(b) the income earned during the last two years on account of visits of tourists to Ajanta and Ellora caves;

(c) whether the National Park Services of USA has prepared any plan for the development of these caves;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said development plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The Government has entered into a Loan Agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan in January, 1992 for Conservation and Development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra. The OECF assistance is to the tune of 3.7 billion Japanese Yen, the Project is expected to be completed by December, 1996. The major components of the project are afforestation, upgradation of aerodrome facilities at Aurangabad, strengthening of roads, augmentation of water supply and sewerage, improvement of electricity supply, conservation of monuments and visitor management facilities. The OECF loan is not available in advance. The implementing agencies i.e. State Governments have to first incur expenditure from their own resources and then claim reimbursement from the OECF.

Rs. 18.98 crores for Ajanta Ellora project has already been reimbursed by OECF.

(b) The income earned as per information provided by the Archaeological Survey of India is as follows :

1994-95	Rs. 3,64,808
1995-96	Rs. 4,53,038

(c) to (e). National Parks Services of the U.S.A prepared a conservation and Tourism enhancement plan in June, 1991 which incorporates an integrated development for these sites including land use plan, management and maintenance of heritage sites, interpretation and visitor facilities.

The recommendations are incorporated in the OECF Project.

Tourists Arrivals

314. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the latest figure, India still accounts for 0.4% of world tourists arrivals and 0.7% of tourism receipts;

(b) if so, the reasons for this dismal figures despite so much stress has been given on boosting tourism;

(c) the India's comparison of figures with the figures of other countries of the region, in this regard; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to improve India's position in World tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). India being a developing nation infrastructural facilities are limited. The main reasons for the low share of India in the world tourist traffic are accessibility and infrastructural facilities. The measures being taken by Government to improve India's share in world tourism include continuous improvement of infrastructural facilities, development of tourist attractions, focussed publicity and marketing abroad, etc.

The percentage share of India and other countries of South Asia region in the global tourist traffic and Tourism receipts during 1995 were as follows :

Country	Tourist Arrivals (thousand)	% Share to World Arrivals	Tourist Receipts (US \$ millions)	% Share to World Receipts
India	2124	0.37	2754	0.74
Bangladesh	150	0.03	21	0.01
Pakistan	528	0.09	125	0.03
Iran	365	0.06	155	0.04
Maldives	324	0.06	205	0.06
Nepal	346	0.06	170	0.05
Sri Lanka	451	0.08	248	0.07
Others*	98	0.02	29	0.01

*Others : Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar

Survey regarding Potential of Tourism in Kutch Region

315. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have surveyed the potential of tourism in the Kutch region of Gujarat, and

(b) if so, the programme chalked out by the Union Government for the development of Kutch region for pilgrim and adventure of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). In the Tourism Policy of Gujarat, the State Government has identified Kutch as a potential area for development of Tourism.

The State Government has prepared a Master Plan for the infrastructural development of Kutch distt. for the promotion of tourism. The Department of Tourism provided funds for Kutch Festival during 1995-96.

[Translation]

Surat-Bhusaval Railway Line

316. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to double and electrify the Surat-Bhusaval railway line,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Doubling of single line section is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. Over long sections, such doubling is taken up in phases to tackle the critical section first. In this case survey for doubling of Nardana-Amalner section (28 kms) has been taken up. The remaining section would be considered in due course as per requirements of traffic. The portion from Surat to Udhana and Bhusawal to Jalgaon is already electrified.

Udhana-Jalgaon is an unelectrified portion of Surat-Bhusawal section. The electrification work of Udhana-Jalgaon section is proposed to be included in the Budget for the year 1997-98.

[English]

Oriya Programme on Doordarshan/AIR in Orissa

317 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa which have the facilities of producing original programmes in Oriya language, location-wise;

(b) the details of such projects under implementation in the State;

(c) whether Oriya language is given adequate time to telecast on the National network and DD channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e). National Network of Doordarshan does not telecast any programmes in any regional language. However, regional films which have won National award or panorama entry and also dance and music programmes of eminent artists in regional languages are telecast in the National Network.

The programmes telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar are available all over the country through cable connection. Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar telecast regional programmes from 4.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M. daily which can be seen terrestrially all over Orissa.

STATEMENT

(a) The following eleven AIR Stations in Orissa have the facilities of producing original programmes in Oriya language :

1. Cuttack
2. Jeypore
3. Sambalpur
4. Keonjhar
5. Baripada
6. Berhampur
7. Bolangir
8. Bhawanipatna

9. Rourkela

10. Puri

11. Joranda

Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar and Sambalpur have studio facilities to produce programmes in Oriya language.

(b) The project under implementation :

All India Radio

The existing transmitters at Sambalpur and Jeypore are being upgraded. Local Radio Stations are being set-up at Soro (Balasore) and Rairangpur.

Doordarshan

A studio centre is being set up at Bhawanipatna.

Orders for MG Coaches Stopped

318. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has stopped placing orders for MG Coaches and that MG coaches are generally overaged and unsafe for passenger operation;

(b) if so, the details of overaged coaches and the state of such overaged coaches; and

(c) the number of new MG coaches built during the last three years and outstanding orders as at present and the number of overaged MG coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In view of requirement of MG Coaches coming down with the planned gauge conversion, Railway Board decided to stop manufacture of new MG Coaches. It is not correct that MG coaches are generally overaged and unsafe for passenger operation.

(b) The average economic life of a MG Coach is 25 years. As on 31.3.96, about 16% of the MG coaches had completed 25 years of service. The condition of these coaches is satisfactory and they are safe and fit for operation in all respects.

(c) The number of new MG coaches built during the last three years is under :

Year	No. of coaches mfd.
1993-94	70
1994-95	Nil
1995-96	Nil

There is no outstanding order for MG Coach manufacture at present. As on 31.3.96, 890 coaches had completed a service of 25 years out of a total holding of 5565 MG passenger carrying coaches.

[Translation]

**Late running of Trains between
New Delhi and Madras**

319. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the up and down trains to New Delhi-Madras are running late;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number and details of Express/Superfast trains on the said route reached their destinations late during the last two months; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the said condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as cyclone in coastal area, accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities, bad weather etc.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

STATEMENT

The detailed number of Express/Superfast trains running late during the last two months are as under

Train No.	September '96		October '96	
	Days Ran	Days arrived	Days Ran	Days arrived late
1. 2615 G.T. Express	30	3	30	4
2. 2616 G.T. Express	30	5	29	3
3. 2621 T.N. Express	30	5	30	8
4. 2622 T.N. Express	30	7	29	7
5. 2431 Rajdhani Express	5	2	3	-
6. 2432 Rajdhani Express	4	1	3	2
7. 6031 Madras-Jammu Tawi Express	12	4	6	2
8. 6032 Jammu Tawi-Madras Express	12	2	9	5
9. 2633 Rajdhani Express	-	-	3	2
10. 2634 Rajdhani Express	-	-	3	1

[English]

**Introduction of Rajdhani Express between
Dimapur and Delhi**

320. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce another Rajdhani Express from Dimapur to New Delhi very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has announced to do so; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The Prime Minister has announced the extension of 2423/

2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express upto Dimapur. This will be done after the development of terminal and maintenance infrastructure at Dimapur and production of additional Rajdhani rake by the Production Units.

New Railway Lines in Andhra Pradesh

321. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new railway lines proposed to be constructed during 1996-97 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of proposals submitted by the State Government to the Union Government for laying of new railway lines, upgradation and conversion of old lines in the State;

(c) whether all the new lines are likely to be completed during 1996-97; and

(d) the total allocation made during the current year for the development of railways in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Two new rail lines, viz. Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad and Nandyal-Yerraguntla in Andhra Pradesh have been taken up for construction in 1996-97

(b) Proposals for 11 new rail lines and gauge conversion of two metre gauge sections, have been submitted by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir

(d) A total allocation of Rs. 257.14 crores has been made in Budget, 1996-97, for new lines, gauge conversions and doublings in Andhra Pradesh.

Expansion of Telephone Network at Calcutta

322. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to expand the network/area of Calcutta Telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). In the past there has been demand to expand the jurisdiction of Calcutta Telephones to include some adjacent areas like Bhangor, Champahati, Falta, Rajarhat etc. As per the existing policy of the Department of Telecom, the boundary of a local telephone system like Calcutta generally corresponds to that of its municipal limits or limits defined by the metropolitan development authorities. Based on this policy as well as technical considerations, it has not been possible to accede to the demand.

Daily running of Guwahati Rajdhani Express

323. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to run Guwahati Rajdhani Express daily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any proposals to increase the coaches of this train and to hand over the train to North Eastern Railway; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Kanniyakumari and Calcutta

324. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the difficulties being faced by the Government to introduce a superfast train between Kanniyakumari and Calcutta; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the introduction of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to introduce a direct train between Kanniyakumari and Howrah due to shortage of coaches and locomotives and operational constraints including non-availability of spare terminal/maintenance facility at Kanniyakumari and Howrah and line capacity constraints on various sections enroute.

Introduction of Shatabdi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri

325. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether any initiative has been taken to introduce this train during this year; and

(c) if not, the reasons for neglecting this vital route of Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Introduction of Shatabdi Express between Calcutta and New Jalpaiguri has been examined but it was not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Relay Centre in Maharashtra

326. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up T.V. Relay Centre in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location for which representations have been received for setting up the said Relay Centre; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The details of the locations where TV Transmitters are under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State of Maharashtra are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Requests are received from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in the States. Such requests are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage a inter-se priorities, while finalising locations for Doordarshan projects which is a continuous activity.

STATEMENT

TV Transmitters under Implementation/Envisaged to be set up in the State of Maharashtra

Transmitters under Implementation	Transmitters Envisaged to be set up
1	2

LPTs

Shirpur
Navapur
Mangaon
Khopoli
Mahad
Umarkhed
Satana
Sironcha
Chandur
Aheri
Chikoli
Ambet

HPTs

Chandrapur
Jalgaon
Mahapatgarh
Brahmapur
LPTs/VLPTs
Raver
Pandharkawada
Khanapur
Mangalwedha
Akalkot
Daryapur
Dhadgaon
Phaltan
Chimur
Sakoli
Arjuni
Kurkhera
Sindewahi
Patan (Satara)
Karanja (Wardha)
Pulgaon
Tivsa
Bhandara
Tumsar
Pimpalner-Sakri
Wai
Koregaon
Ashti

1

2

VLPTs

Malwan
Malkapur
Bhokar
Badlapur

[English]

Howrah Goods Shed

327. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Howrah Goods Shed, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Howrah goods shed is operational and has not been closed. The goods shed is situated immediately after the Howrah coaching station at the Southern end. Remodelling and expansion of Howrah Coaching Station is due now to deal with future growth and pattern of suburban and non-suburban passenger services. The modalities for this purpose were examined by two expert committees and the plan for remodelling and expansion of the coaching station has been finalised. Further, a task force with representatives from the Planning Commission, West Bengal Government, Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority, Calcutta Port Trust, Calcutta Corporation, Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Railways had also submitted a report in 1983 recommending development of additional coaching facilities by shifting Howrah goods shed. The Railway Reforms Committee (RRC) had also recommended shifting of Howrah goods shed in their report in 1983. There would be a need to shift Howrah goods shed in due course. Dankuni which is at a distance of 15 Kms. from Howrah goods shed is already dealing with bulk traffic and when further developed, it will be able to cater fully to the traffic of existing Howrah goods shed.

[Translation]

Development of Railway Stations

328. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Stations modernised/developed by the Government during the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government have also selected some more Railway Stations for modernisation/development

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(d) the status of modernisation work of these stations; and

(e) the funds earmarked therefor during each of the last two years and current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). Stations are developed/modernised on a need based programme depending on the availability of funds. This is a continuous process and works in this regard are included in the Annual Works Programme of the Railways. Railway-wise information works is presented to the Parliament alongwith the Budget documents. State-wise/UT-wise information is not maintained in the Ministry of Railways.

Funds allocated for this purpose during the last two years and the current financial year are as under :

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)
1994-95	73.35
1995-96	87.98
1996-94	120.00

STD Facility in the Country

329. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of places proposed to be linked with STD telephone facility in the country during 1996-97. State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : 1939 places are proposed to be linked with S.T.D. facility in the country during 1996-97. State-wise and Location-wise details are given in enclosed Statement

STATEMENT

State-wise details where STD Facility is proposed to be provided during 1996-97.

State	No. of Locations
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	300
Assam	26
Bihar	18
Gujarat	100
Haryana	25

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	50
Jammu and Kashmir	26
Karnataka	250
Kerala	*
Madhya Pradesh	300
Maharashtra	98
Goa	6
Arunachal Pradesh	23
Manipur	14
Meghalaya	15
Mizoram	15
Nagaland	15
Tripura	23
Orissa	40
Punjab	150
Rajasthan	36
Tamil Nadu	50
Uttar Pradesh	253
West Bengal	99
Sikkim	5
A and N Islands	2
Total	1939

* All Stations have been provided with S.T.D. facility.

Problems to Consumers after Computerisation

330. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the computerisation of depositing of telephone bills, preparing duplicate bills and other various services provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited; Consumers are facing difficulties;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce any new scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) MTNL has been consistently improving its services and modernising its infrastructure, for the convenience of the subscribers. Continuous efforts are

made to reduce any difficulties being faced by consumers.

Modern "Customer Service Centres" Have been set-up in all Area Offices. The duplicate bills are, now, available at all Area Offices for any area, and bills can be paid at any MTNL counter even beyond due date. Payment counters have been opened at almost all Remote Exchange Areas (RLUs).

Depositing of telephone bills has been further simplified by the introduction of the system of payment through Post Bag. The "Revolving Account System" and the "Electronic Clearance System", are schemes which eliminate the requirement of the subscribers to visit any office for payment of telephone bills.

(c) The "Customer Services Management System" (CSMS) is proposed to be introduced in MTNL. This would create a highly automated computerised network in both Delhi and Mumbai, to provide various facilities to the customers.

(d) The CSMS project is likely to be implemented next year.

[English]

Postal Training Centres

331 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR
SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Postal Training Centres set up in the country and the number of trainees got training therein during the last year. State-wise.

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to modernise and upgrade some of these Postal Centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Department of Post has five Postal Training Centres. The Number of trainees who have been trained therein during the year 95-96. State-wise is detailed in enclosed statement.

(b) The training Centres are well equipped with modern training aids and computers to impart training. The post of Director Postal Staff College is being upgraded from Senior Administrative grade to Higher Administrative Grade.

(c) As part of process of modernisation all the Postal Training Centres have been provided with computers, Electronic typewriters, Televisions, FAX Machines, Over Head and Slide projectors, Electronic Stencil cutter, Franking Machines etc. PTC, Mysore has been provided with RISOGRAPH machine. The capacity of Computers at Postal Training Centre, Mysore have been upgraded. A computer laboratory has been set up to develop Postal

oriented software. During the last three years a total sum of Rs 93.45 lakhs for purchase of machinery and equipment and amount of Rs 69.50 lakhs for upgradation of building facilities have been spent under plan funds.

STATEMENT

S No	Name of the State (Circle)	No. of Officials trained in 95-96
1	Assam	338
2	Andhra Pradesh	907
3	Bihar	651
4	Delhi	395
5	Gujarat	1173
6	Haryana	446
7	Himachal Pradesh	238
8	Jammu & Kashmir	84
9	Karnataka	1349
10	Kerala	832
11	Madhya Pradesh	1159
12	Maharashtra	2014
13	North East	153
14	Orissa	594
15	Punjab	461
16	Rajasthan	643
17	Tamil Nadu	1971
18	Uttar Pradesh	666
19	West Bengal	784
Total		14858

Increase in Frequency of Trains

332 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have increased the frequency of some trains with effect from October 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of these trains;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to increase the frequency of 2421 Up/2422 Dn Rajdhani Express; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The frequency of following 8 pairs of trains has been increased from October 1996.

1. 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express from bi-weekly to tri-weekly.

2. 6043/6044 Madras-Patna Express from weekly to bi-weekly
3. 6045/6046 Madras-Ahmadabad Navjeevan Express from 6 days a week to daily.
4. 8301/8302 Hirakud Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.
5. 4863/4864 Marudhar Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.
6. 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad Express from weekly to tri-weekly
7. 6339/6340 Nagercoil-Mumbai CST Express from weekly to tri-weekly
8. 7003/7004 Howrah-Secunderabad Falaknuma Express from tri-weekly to daily.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to increase the frequency of 2421/2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from weekly to bi-weekly, on availability of additional Rajdhani rake from Production units.

Introduction of BOLT Scheme

333. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

- (a) the date of the introduction of BOLT scheme by Railways;
- (b) the main objectives of the scheme;
- (c) the details of private sector participation in the BOLT scheme in different Railway Projects; and
- (d) the progress of those projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme was started by the Railways in November, 1994.

(b) To undertake some of the projects through investment by private sector, in view of a sharp reduction in budgetary support for Railways' expansion plans.

(c) The following firms submitted their bids for various projects under BOLT scheme :

Gauge Conversion & Doubling

1. M/s Western India Industries Ltd., Pune.
2. M/s Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd., Hyderabad.
3. M/s Hydron Enviro Systems Ltd., Ahmedabad.
4. M/s Indian Railway Constn. Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
5. M/s G.S. Pandey & Co., Gorakhpur.
6. M/s Mukand Ltd., Thane.
7. M/s Kalindee Rail Nirman (Engineers) Ltd., Jaipur.
8. M/s progressive constn., New Delhi.

9. M/s Tantia Constn., Calcutta.
10. M/s Kalindee Infrastructure Development (P) Ltd., New Delhi

Railway Electrification

1. M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Madras.
2. M/s KEC (International) Ltd., Madras.
3. M/s SAE (India) Ltd., New Delhi.
4. M/s SPIC-SMO Ltd., Madras.

Rolling Stock

1. M/s BHEL, Bhopal.
2. M/s IDBI, Bombay.
3. M/s IRCON, New Delhi.
4. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
5. M/s BESCO, Calcutta.
6. M/s CIMMCo, Calcutta.
7. M/s Tebma Engg. Ltd., Madras.
8. M/s BEML, Bangalore.
9. M/s SRF Finance, New Delhi.

Track Machines

1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria.
2. M/s. Engineering Prestressed Antri Unit, Gwalior.
3. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
4. M/s Ameca, Italy.
5. M/s RAUTARUUKKI, Finland.
6. M/s Kershaw, USA.
7. M/s Loram, USA.

(d) Out of a total of 34 tenders for various projects invited under BOLT Scheme, contract has been awarded in four cases (Two for gauge conversion and two for rolling stock). 11 tender cases are under finalisation and 19 have been dropped.

Fare Increased by Konkan Railway Corporation

334. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Konkan Railway corporation has increased the passenger and the goods fare by 40% from September, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). In view of the high cost of construction, maintenance and operation charges coupled with low Internal Rate of

Return and the requirement for repayment of huge market borrowings by the Konkan Railway Corporation, the Central Government have sanctioned inflation in distance for charge which is @40% for Passenger and Other Coaching traffic and 50% for Goods Traffic on Konkan Railway. The imposition of inflation in distance is a normal practice on the Indian Railways for realisation of an economic Rate of Return on its Projects. Periodic Financial review of inflation in distance is undertaken for assessing the viability of the project and based on such study, the inflation in distance for charge is either reduced or withdrawn.

Heavy Rush in Karnataka Express

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

(a) whether it is fact that heavy rush always remain in Karnataka Express running between Bangalore and New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run the Rajdhani Express running between Nizamuddin and Bangalore as a bi-weekly train; and

(c) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are periods of heavy rush in Karnataka Express between Bangalore and New Delhi.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to increase the frequency of Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani from weekly to bi-weekly on availability of additional Rajdhani rake

Railway Enquiry System

336 DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a revised railway enquiry system is being introduced at Visakhapatnam railway station,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). An interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for giving computer generated response regarding running of passenger carrying trains has already been installed at Visakhapatnam. This system provides a direct telephonic interface of the person making enquiry with the computerised system. Such a person is guided and prompted to provide relevant details of the enquiry to the system to enable it to provide the requisite reply. In addition inquiries regarding running of passenger carrying trains are answered by the enquiry clerks on telephones or in person.

There is no proposal to make any change in the existing arrangements.

Earnings from Advertisements/Serials to Doordarshan

337 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of doordarshan's earnings/commercial revenue from advertisements and sponsorships during each of the last three years respectively;

(b) the programmes/serials which earned the highest revenue during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to rise further in its earnings; and

(d) if so, the details of sources/programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The gross revenue earned by Doordarshan during the past three years is as under :

Year	Gross Revenue (in Rs. crores)
1993-94	372.98
1994-95	398.02
1995-96	430.13

(b) The following are the highest revenue earning programmes/serials during the said period.

Hindi Feature Films, Chitrahaar, Rangoli, Chandrakanta, Tehkikat, Alif Laila, BPL Ek Se Badkar Ek, Junoon, Superhit Mucabala, Shri Krishna, and Kanoon.

(c) and (d) it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to maximise its commercial revenues without compromising with its social and national objectives and the quality of its programmes.

Modernisation of RSP and BSP

338 SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation work of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) is being done as per the target fixed therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress of work done so far, plant-wise;

(d) the amount earmarked in this regard, plant-wise;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far and likely to be incurred till completion of the work;

(f) the amount spent on this account during each of the last three years;

(g) whether the Supreme Court has recently passed strictures on the above plants for its failure in implementation of anti-pollution measures; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Basic Telephone Services

339. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Department of Tele-Communication has selected the companies for providing licences for basic Telephone Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government propose to give assistance for raising financial resources to these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) the other assistance proposed to be given by the Government to these companies;

(f) the total number of meetings held between these companies and Telecommunication Department so far on this issue; and

(g) the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement

(c) Raising financial resources is entirely the responsibility of the bidders.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above

(e) The Government will provide assistance in networking and infrastructural matters as per the tender conditions.

(f) A series of meetings on the the issues pertaining to agreement documents were held during 25.7.96 to 7.8.96, 11.9.96, 17.10.96, 18.10.96 and 24.10.96 to 30.10.96

(g) a large number of issues have been sorted out.

STATEMENT

Name of the Circles	Name of the Bidders	Date of issue of Letter of Intent
Tamil Nadu	M/s Basic Teleservices Ltd.	13.03.96
Delhi	M/s HFCL Bezeq Telecom Ltd.	04.03.96
U.P. (West)	-do-	-do-
Haryana	-do-	-do-
Orissa	-do-	-do-
Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	13.03.96
Bihar	M/s Techno Telecom Ltd.	13.03.96
Punjab	M/s Eassar Commvision	13.03.96
Gujarat	M/s Reliance Telecom	13.03.96
Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Ispat Ltd.	19.03.96

[English]

Harihar Nath Mela

340. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'Harihar Nath Mela' at Sonepur district of Saran, Bihar is the largest cattle fair in India;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to promote it as a National Tourist Cattle Fair;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for promotion of Harihar Nath Mela during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) 'Harihar Nath Mela' at Sonepur is one of the largest fairs.

(b) and (c). The Department of Tourism has identified Sonepur Fair for grant financial assistance. The Fair is being promoted the Indian Tourist Offices in India and abroad.

(d) The amount of financial assistance sanctioned during the last three years is as follows :-

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Nil	3,03,962.00	3,00,000

[Translation]

Late running of Delhi bound Trains

341. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Delhi bound

trains were running eighteen to twenty four hours late in October, 1996 due to the incidents of accidents

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid rail accidents in future and the relief provided by the Government to the victims of these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Only Delhi bound trains from South ran abnormally late due to breaches in South Central Railway.

(c) A Statement is attached

STATEMENT

(c) Some of the steps taken to prevent train accidents are as under :-

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and important main lines.
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal from being lowered till the starter and the advance starter, lowered for the previous train, have been put back to 'ON' position.
3. Auxiliary warning system for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train has already been commissioned on Bombay sub-urban sections.
4. Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.
5. The track is maintained by Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised.
8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
9. Training facilities for drivers, guards and other staff connected with train operation have been modernised. Drivers are being trained on simulators.
10. Performance of the staff is constantly monitored. The staff whose knowledge is

found deficient are counselled and are sent for refresher training.

Soon after the accident, ex-gratia relief is given by railway administration at the rate of Rs 15,000/- to the next of the kin of the dead, Rs.5,000/- in case of grievous injury and Rs.500/- in the case of simple injury in order to meet their immediate expense.

Later on Compensation amounting to Rs.2 lakhs is also paid to the dependents of those passengers who are dead or are permanently disabled in train accidents. For other injuries, the amount varies from Rs.16,000/- to Rs 1,80,000/-.

Besides, prompt medical services are provided to the victims.

[English]

Expansion of Telecom in North-East

342. SHRI BADAI CHOUDHURY
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide/allot more STD/ISD/PCOs in different parts of North-East States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, Distt-wise, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Details of proposed STD/ISD PCOs during 1996-97 are as under :-

S No	Name of State/Telecom Distt.	No. of PCOs
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	51
2.	Manipur	85
3.	Meghalaya	81
4.	Mizoram	60
5.	Nagaland	65
6.	Tripura	68
7.	Guwahati	300
8.	Dibrugarh	50
9.	Jorhat	40
10.	Silchar	60
11.	Tezpur	20
12.	Naogaon	20
13.	Bongaigaon	30

(c) Exchange capacities are being expanded and STD connectivity to a number of exchanges are being augmented.

Operation of A 320 Aircraft at Cochin

343. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the much need demand of the people of Kerala to have A 320 Aircraft Operation at Cochin Airport; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The runway available at Cochin Airport is 6000 feet but it is a unidirectional runway and the available landing distance is only 5,645 feet. Suitability of this airport for A 320 operations is being assessed by a Committee constituted with representatives of Director General of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines, CTE Hyderabad and Airports Authority of India.

[Translation]

Railway Link

344. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link Bulandshahar and Khurja in Uttar Pradesh with Delhi through a railway-line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted/ proposed to be conducted in this regard by the Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the above cities are likely to be linked with Delhi through railway line?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Central Studio of Doordarshan

345. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the facilities are available in Central Studio of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons for its floor lying vacant and hiring stage and equipments; and

(c) the amount spent thereon during the last two years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Central Production Centre (CPC) is a better equipped studio complex compared to other studios available at different kendras. It has two studios with all basic facilities for programme production.

(b) The studios of CPC remain continuously engaged throughout the year for production of programmes to meet the requirement of various Doordarshan channels. Despite having all the basic facilities, CPC requires support facilities such as recording-studio, proportionate editing facilities and Electronic Field Production (EFP) accessories, which are hired as per requirement. Stage is hired on very special occasions when the production demands large space.

(c) The expenditure incurred on hiring of stage and equipments during this period was Rs. 14,84,594/-

Damage to Bridge at Chhota Udaipur Region

346. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the culvert constructed on Dokhaliya drain near Bodali on Jambusar - Chhota Udaipur metre gauge railway line in Chhota Udaipur under the Western Railway and the bridge on river Bharaj have been damaged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds have been allocated for their repairs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the bridge and culvert are likely to be repaired?

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

(b) Dokhaliya - 1 x 6.1 m. Girder Bridge was completely damaged.

Bharaj - Two spans of 12 x 18.3G Bridge were washed away.

(c) to (e). The matter is under consideration.

New Electronic Media Policy

347. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make policy changes in the news programmes by disallowing private

producers to telecast news programmes from Doordarshan:

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on media; and

(c) the details of other major policy changes under consideration/finalisation under new Electronic Media Policy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Finalisation of Bills on Broadcasting and Amendment to Prasar Bharati Act is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities at the Railway Stations of Maharashtra

348. SHRI NAMDEO DIVATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such Railway Stations in Maharashtra where Restaurants, Waiting Rooms, Drinking Water facility, Retiring Room and Shed over the platforms are not available;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide these facilities at these stations during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Facilities such as drinking water, waiting halls, seating arrangement and latrines are provided at all stations. Amenities such as refreshment rooms, retiring rooms, sheds on platforms etc. are provided based on the importance of the station, the volume of traffic handled at the station and the number of long distance trains stopping, originating or terminating at the station. Therefore, the availability of amenities at all Stations will not be uniform. Important stations and stations with a large volume of traffic are provided with all amenities whereas smaller stations, with a relatively meagre volume of traffic, are not provided with the same quantum of amenities.

However, as a continuous process, the Railway conduct surveys to ascertain the adequacy of amenities at every station and the deficiencies, wherever noticed, are made good by including suitable works in the Railways Annual Work Programmes and subject to the availability of funds.

The Ministry of Railways, however, does not maintain this information state-wise.

[English]

Doordarshan/AIR Projects in Orissa

349. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for setting up of AIR stations completed/Pending in Orissa, location-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far.

(c) the details of the Doordarshan/AIR projects proposed to be undertaken during the current plan period.

(d) the number of such projects likely to be set up in Tribal Areas, separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) As in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d). AIR plans to start two more schemes of Local Radio Stations in tribal areas at Soro and Rairangpur, whereas DDn proposes to set up three additional transmitters at Berhampur, Bahalda and Paikamal for which schemes are yet to be approved. This is in addition to 37 transmitters (including those in tribal areas) Studio set up at Bhawanipatna and Sambalpur (Permanent Set up) which are under implementation in Orissa.

STATEMENT

S No	Name of scheme	Commissioned on	Capital expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) (Approx.)
1	2	3	4
@1	Local Radio Station at Berhampur	1.4.1993	274.93
2	Local Radio Station at Bolangir	29.12.1993	242.87
@3	Local Radio Station at Rourkela	20.4.1995	297.45
4	Local Radio Station at Puri	29.6.1995	168.08
@5	New Radio Station at Bhawanipatna	30.12.1996	697.22
6	LRS at Joranda	3.10.1995	186.60
7	Upgradation of 20 KW MW Tr. to 100 KW at Jeypore	16.9.1993	195.41
8	Stereo channel with 6 KW FM Tr. PB Studio at Cuttack	27.5.1994	39.48

1	2	3	4
9	Upgradation of 20 KW MW Tr to 100 KW at Sambalpur	Yet to be Commissioned	280 64
10	New 50 KW SW Tr. at Jaypore	-do-	62 22
11	Regional Staff Training Institute (Technical) Bhubaneswar	-do-	1202 63*

* Total project cost

@ Located in tribal areas

Satellite Time to Private Channels

350. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has decided to lease satellite time to private channels; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof and how much satellite time is proposed to be so leased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Industrial Labourers

351. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the labourers working in various industrial units of Madhya Pradesh who are facing the negligence/violation of labour laws by Managers and the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether these labourers are being paid wages less than the minimum wages fixed by the Government and they are treated as bonded labourers and are forced to sign their resignation letter and loan papers at the time of joining; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of Ahmedabad Airport

352. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Government propose to take over the acquired land for extension of Ahmedabad airport;

(b) whether any budgetary provision has been made by the Government to take up the extension work during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The acquired land at Ahmedabad airport has already been taken over by Airports Authority of India in August, 1996. However, certain obstructions like water pipe line has to be diverted by the State Government before the work can commence.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The detailed estimates are under preparation.

[Translation]

Contractual Labourers in Bokaro Steel Plant

353. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of contractual labourers engaged in public and private steel industries and particularly in Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) since when such labourers are working;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide them Government service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Reduction in Running Time of Trains

354. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to reduce the running time between Delhi and North-Eastern States and between Calcutta and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Speeding up of trains is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility. 4055 Brahmaputra Mail has been speeded up by 25 minutes from 1-10-96.

Opening of New Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Andhra Pradesh

355. DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Union Government to open new tourism and travel management institute in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accepted the proposal of the State Government for setting up such Institute; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to open a new Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Hyderabad. In view of the constraint in resources, the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been considered.

Deteriorated Communication in West Bengal

356. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecommunications in Murshidabad, Maldah, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts of West Bengal is in deteriorated condition;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received and action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the improvement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir, the telecommunications services are satisfactory except a few interruptions in the system at Alipurduar in Jalpaiguri District and Harishchandrapur in Maldah District.

(b) Few complaints were received in the past about telephone services at Alipurduar and Harishchandrapur. The Exchange at Alipurduar has now been replaced by a new digital upgraded in a phased manner. As a consequence, the service at Alipurduar is now substantially improved. There was an interconnection problem between two units of the exchange at Harishchandrapur which has been attended to.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further improve the service.

- (i) Routine check of equipments.
- (ii) Immediate rectification of faults.
- (iii) Ensure sufficient stock of spares and stores.
- (iv) Tight supervision by the officer incharge.

Regularisation of Services of Doctors

357. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
DR ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry engaged a large number of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors as part time/temporarily at different important centres of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof zone-wise;

(c) whether the Government have issued an order for the regularisation of services of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry so far for the regularisation of services of these doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Homeopathy and Ayurvedic Doctors on part time basis with fixed honorarium have been engaged by the Staff benefit Fund Committees on the Railways.

(b) A Statement is attached

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Railway	Homoeopathic Doctors	Ayurvedic Doctors	Total
Central	15	2	17
Eastern	17	10	27
Northern	14	10	24
North Eastern	24	5	29
Northeast Frontier	8	2	10
Southern	8	3	11
South Central	3	4	7
South Eastern	14	Nil	14
Western	10	Nil	10

[Translation]

Agreement with Foreign Countries

358. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed by the

Government with foreign countries for the execution/maintenance of railway projects in the country during the last two years and the current year so far; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Mineral Wealth

359. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mineral wealth of the country is decreasing constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage exploration of mineral wealth in the country;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Minerals are non-renewable resources of the country. Depletion is proportionate to the quantum exploited only.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geological Survey of India is one of the major organisation entirely dedicated to the exploration activities in the country. Annually about 170 mineral investigation projects are being taken up throughout the country. During 8th Five Year Plan Geological Survey of India has succeeded in augmenting the resources of various important mineral commodities. The Geological Survey of India has given main thrust during the 9th Five Year Plan for mineral exploration with special emphasis on deficient commodities of high value like Gold, Diamond, etc. as well as on ores & minerals of high demand like base metals, Tin, Tungsten, Molybdenum, etc.

Exploration is also carried out by Directorate of Mining & Geology in the respective States. Further, Guidelines for prospecting of minerals in larger areas through private sectors have also been issued recently.

[English]

Re-construction of Hotels by ITDC

360. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation propose to re-construct certain hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some foreign firms have been invited to join the joint ventures for designing and construction of these hotels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms proposed for the said joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). yes, Sir. ITDC envisages to undertake schemes for renovation of its Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjit Hotels in phased manner during the 9th Five Year Plan period (1997—2002).

(c) to (e). Presently, no joint venture is proposed for these schemes with any foreign firm.

Unauthorised Hutments and Construction around the Railway Track

361. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of the Central Railway is adversely affected by the unauthorised hutments and other construction around the railway track;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove these obstacles;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has proposed to the Union Government to allot their vacant land in Mumbai to hutments dwellers so that the present hutments can be removed; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) Action against the unauthorised occupants of Railway land is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mega Projects for Promotion of Resort Tourism

362. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to set up a number of Mega projects with special focus on Resort Tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of concept location financial implications, implementation schedule impact etc. project-wise;

(c) the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken both at the Apex level and State Government's level;

(d) the details of other innovative projects proposed to attract foreign tourist and encourage domestic tourism;

(e) whether the Union Government are considering structural changes at the Apex level by setting up Tourism Development Authority;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government also propose to set up mega projects at Hampi, Bellur and Halebeeb, etc. of Karnataka with special focus on Resort Tourism; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). Identification, development and implementation of Mega Projects is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments. So far, the following Mega special projects namely Bekal Tourism Project in Kerala, Valiakulam Project in Kerala, Puri-Konark in Orissa, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Muttukadu Beach in Tamilnadu, Diu in Daman & Diu and International Hotel Complex in New Delhi have been identified.

(e) and (f). No Sir, However, for implementation of the mega projects, the State Government of Kerala and Orissa have set up Special tourism area Authority.

(g) and (h). The Government of Karnataka has submitted a project proposal for the overall development of the Hampi site for external financial assistance.

Imposition of ESMA on Hospital Strike

363. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff of Hospitals have been brought under the Essential Services Maintenance Act;

(b) the effect of imposition of ESMA on the strike of karmacharis of Safdarjung Hospital; and

(c) the number of Karmacharis arrested after imposition of ESMA?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi issued a Notification on 29.10.96 inter-alia prohibiting strike/agitation of all employees/doctors of Central Government Hospitals in Delhi under the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1974 as extended to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery also initiated conciliation proceedings and finally an amicable agreement was arrived at on 15.11.96 which resulted in calling off of the Strike.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Transfer of Telephone Connections

364. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has issued directions under which arrangements have been made to transfer the local telephone connections within 7 days, from Exchange within 15 days and from State within one month and to set right the out of order telephones within 48 hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard separately by various communications/MTNL officers from June, 1996 till date which have been disposed off State-wise;

(d) the details of complaints which have not been disposed off as per above directions, State-wise particularly in Delhi;

(e) the reasons therefor and steps taken against the officers held responsible for this; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued. The following norms have been prescribed :

1. Local Shift within 7 days
2. Interexchange shift within 10 days (15)
3. Intercity shift within 30 days
4. New Telephone Connection within 15 days
5. Fault Clearance within 48 hours.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Introduction of DMU Trains

365. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to introduce DMU trains on Muzaffarpur, Hajipur and Chhapra section of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) and (c). To cater to the commuter traffic in the area, Air Brake shuttles with higher capacity coaches have already been introduced on Siwan-Chhapra-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Training Centres for Railway Employees

366. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of training institutes in the country to impart training to railway employees;

(b) whether the Government propose to open such training institutes in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are 169 training institutes on the railways spread all over the country which cater to the training needs of all the railway employees.

(b) There is no proposal to open new training institutes in Maharashtra.

(c) Does not arise.

Sub-Post Offices in Maharashtra

367. SHRI SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Maharashtra which do not have sub-post offices;

(b) whether State Governments Maharashtra have sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 39,098 villages in Maharashtra do not have Sub Post Office. However, Extra Departmental sub POs/Branch POs are available in 11290 villages in the State.

(b) No, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra have not sent any proposal in this regard.

(c) and (d). does not arise in view of (b) above.

Capacity of International and National Airports

368. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of International and National Airports in the Country and their daily and monthly landing, taking off and maintenance capacity;

(b) whether keeping in view the vastness of our country these numbers seem to be less and if so, the scheme to enhance their number and to upgrade their standard; and

(c) the position of India in the International Commercial Sector and the names of the countries with whom India is facing competition?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are five International Airports and 115 National Airports (including 28 civil enclaves) in the country. The number of aircraft and their seating capacity operating to these airports, varies from airport to airport.

(b) Upgradation of airports and other infrastructural facilities is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon projected requirements and availability of resources.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is developing 12 airports at Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Indore, Vadodara, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Calicut, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Imphal as Model Airports as well as Goa and Ahmedabad airport for limited international operations.

There are plans for developing airports at Ajmer in Rajasthan, Lengpui in Mizoram, Tura in Meghalaya, Androth in Lakshadweep, Kargil in J&K. State Governments have taken initiative for development of airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore and Nedumbassery near Cochin.

(c) India is favoured destination for international carriers. More international airlines have expressed their intention either to operate to India or to increase the frequency of operation.

[English]

Number of AI FHTS Operatings

369. SRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Air India Flights operating from India to Saudi Arabia during a week;

(b) whether there is any proposal to operate flights between Calicut and Jeddah by Indian Airlines; and

(c) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Air India operates 18 frequencies per week to Saudi Arabia.

(b) and (c). Indian Airlines has a proposal to provide direct airlink between Calicut and Jeddah. This will be feasible only after the approval is given by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the designation of Indian Airlines as second Indian Carrier for operation of air services between the two countries.

Increase of Air Fare

370. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give subsidy to long distance passengers who are affected by the steep increase in the fares; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephones in Rural Areas

371. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not succeeded in achieving the target of connecting the rural areas with telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount spent on setting up telephone exchanges in rural areas during the last two years, circle-wise;

(d) the progress made during the above period, state-wise;

(e) the time by which telecommunication system is likely to be provided in all the villages of the country, State-wise;

(f) whether priority has been given to backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There has been a shortfall in provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in Rural Areas.

(b) The shortfall is mainly due to delay in supply of equipment and accessories by the supplier.

(c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The information regarding the progress made is given in enclosed Statement.

(e) All the villages of the country are planned to be provided with VPTs during IXth Plan.

(f) and (g). All villages are to be covered. There is no such policy to give priority.

STATEMENT

Circle-wise details of achievements of Rural Telephone connections during 1994-95 and 1995-96

S.No.	Circle	1994-95	1995-96
		Total Gross Lines	Total Gross Lines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23932	46240
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	505	1456
3.	Assam	9168	7872
4.	Bihar	11424	14400
5.	Gujarat	52224	20708
6.	Haryana	19304	11368
7.	Himachal Pradesh	18684	37040
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4580	4984
9.	Karnataka	61760	28456
10.	Kerala	14202	51550
11.	Madhya Pradesh	63704	20584
12.	Maharashtra	52610	71072
13.	North-East	6480	10256
14.	Orissa	5272	7432
15.	Punjab	23224	15576
16.	Rajasthan	59568	20308
17.	Tamilnadu	56571	55030
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	24500	18120
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	20142
20.	West Bengal	27728	31210
Total		535440	493804

Inclusion of Ayodhya in the Important Tourist Places

372. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh has been included in the list of important tourist places;

(b) if so, the arrangements made for the beautification of Ayodhya and the details regarding development works; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Identification of Tourist Spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Department of Tourism, however provides funds for specific projects on the basis of their merits, inter-se priority and availability of funds. During 1991-92, the Department of

Tourism provided funds for construction of Yatri Niwas at Ayodhya.

Telecom Circle Office in Purnea

373. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN Alias PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no telecom circle office in Purnea, in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up telecom circle office there;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no Telecom. Circle office at Purnea.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) In accordance with the policy of the Department the Circle Office is generally located at the State capital. Accordingly the Circle office for the Bihar Telecom Circle is located at Patna. However, a Sub-Division Engineer is located at Purnea.

[English]

Cell Phones to Central Officials

374. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Central officials to get cell-phones" appearing in the 'The Hindu-Business Line', New Delhi dated September 19, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the anticipated revenue which the Telecommunications Department is likely to earn as a result of this facility;

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that this facility is not misused; and

(e) whether the above facility is also proposed to be provided to the officers of Telecommunications Department; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Ministries/ Departments in the Government of India may purchase and use Cellular phones on a selective basis with due regard to the need for economy in Government expenditure. Such proposals are to be cleared by Screening Committee vide Cabinet Secretariat O.M. No. 223/5/1/96-OA-IV dated 9th July, 96.

(c) Since Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not operated by Department of Telecom., no revenue is likely to accrue directly to the department on account of this facility.

(d) The procedure of clearing the proposals by the high level Screening Committee mentioned at (a) above will take care that the facility is not misused.

(e) and (f). At present, Cell-phones are not provided to the officers of Telecom. Department. However, when cell-phones are provided as per (a) and (b) above, the officers of Telecom. Department will also be covered within the ambit of the guidelines.

[Translation]

Death of Workers in Bokaro Steel Plant

375. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of employees in Bokaro Steel Plant died while switching on the bulb in the steam line of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such type of blast also took place in the past;

(d) if so, the number of such incidents took place in the BSP during each of the last three years and during the current year;

(e) the compensation provided to the family of victims; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The steam collector of Boiler No. 4 (SMS-1) had ruptured on 16-10-96 at 20.30 hours leading to steam leakage as a result of which two BSL employees working nearby (operating the valve to the steam collector) got serious burn injuries and succumbed to their injuries.

(c) No such accident has taken place in the Steam collector in the past.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

(e) Apart from employment to one of the direct dependents of the aforesaid employees and payment of Provident Fund and Gratuity, payments have also been made under workmen's compensation, group insurance, employee family benefit scheme and life cover scheme.

(f) To prevent recurrence of such incidents, a number of steps have been taken such as residual life analysis test of the steam pipe, the existing steam line where the rupture took place has been kept out of service, on the job training to the boiler operators is being imparted, etc.

[English]

Indian Workforce

376. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Indian Workforce is most competitive in Asia" appearing in the *Times of India* dated October 14, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring further improvement in the efficiency of Indian workforce?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item captioned "Indian workforce is most competitive in Asia" published in the *Times of India* dated October 14, 1996 is based on a study by Hong Kong based consulting firm excerpted in the *London Economist*. The summary of the report is that while Indian workforce is most cost competitive in terms of cost of Labour, it is not so competitive in terms of quality of skilled labour.

(c) Apart from encouragement to introduce modern technology to make Indian industry internationally competitive, the Government has taken initiatives to augment the skill and productivity of workers which include specialised training programmes for workers through the Central Board of Workers Education, proposals for linkage of wages with productivity and training of workers through various Regional Centres of the National Productivity Council.

[Translation]

Local Telephone Call in Hilly Areas

377. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements made for Local Telephone calls by keeping in view the geographical situation of the hilly areas;

(b) whether such arrangements have been made on the basis of Tehsil or Development Blocks or on the basis of some specific place; and

(c) the details with regard to this policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No special arrangements have been made for hilly areas in regard to Local Calls. However, long distance calls between two short distance charging areas which generally correspond to a tehsil, are charged at the pulse rate of 180 seconds, for 30 kms. for hilly areas, instead of 20 kms. for plain areas.

(b) For purpose of call charges, the country has been divided into Long Distance Charging Area (LDCA) and Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) where LDCA/SDCA generally represents one or more revenue district/ Tehsil respectively. The same policy is applicable for hilly areas also.

(c) The Group dialling calls with reference to (a) are charged at 180 sec. pulse rate provided both called short distance charging centre and calling short distance charging centre are located at an elevation of minimum of 1000 meters above mean sea level and are within 30 kms. radial distance.

[English]

Modernisation of SAIL

378. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of crude steel in the country and SAIL's market share thereof; and

(b) the steps taken to modernise SAIL to get better and improved production with cost reduction?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Out of a total production of 21 942 million tonne of crude steel in the country during the year 1995-96, SAIL including IISCO has produced 10.637 million tonne.

(b) SAIL has undertaken modernisation of its three existing integrated steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro with the objectives of Technological Upgradation, attaining higher productivity, economy in cost of productivity, economy in cost of production, energy conservation, improvements of yield and reduction of environmental pollution. The steps to modernise inter alia involve phasing out of Open Hearth Furnaces, introduction of latest BOF technology, adoption of continuous casting in place of ingot route, improvement in productivity by restoration of health of plants and equipment and optimum utilisation of capacity, etc.

[Translation]

Fire in Benzal Plant

379. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Benzal Plant (By-product) at Bokaro steel plant caught fire during the current year;

(b) if so, the cause of fire and the loss suffered due to this fire accident;

(c) whether the production work has been resumed in Benzal Plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to resume production;

(f) whether any Committee was constituted for conducting enquiry into the accident;

(g) if so, the composition of the Committee and the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken on the basis of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seepage of rain water contaminated with spillages of flammable benzol products had accumulated inside the cable trenches of Motor Control Center (MCC). The flammable benzol vapours got ignited due to electrical spark inside the MCC room. Loss suffered due to this fire at the Benzol Plant is Rs. 1.6 crores approximately.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The production work has been resumed in the benzol plant and all products are being manufactured normally.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

(f) to (h). Yes, Sir. A Committee, comprising (1) General Manager (Services), BSL-Chairman; and (2) Dy. General Manager (E.C.D.), BSL-Member, was constituted for conducting an enquiry into the accident. This Committee identified the causes of the fire and suggested protective action. Two persons were identified

for negligence of duty in this connection. Disciplinary action has been taken against them. Further, on the basis of the report following actions have been taken :

1. Shifting of Electrical Sub-Station.
2. Eliminating of cable trenches and replacing them with overhead cables.
3. Installation of Steam Quenching System.

[English]

Ongoing Railway Projects in Orissa

380. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going railway projects in Orissa alongwith their estimated date of completion;

(b) the present position of these projects, project-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and released to these projects during the current financial years, project-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to electrify Raipur-Waltair Railway line;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Details are as under :

Name of the project	Funds Allocated in 1996-97 (Rs. in Crores)	Date of Completion	Present Position
1	2	3	4
New Lines			
1. Talcher-Sambalpur	58.00	Dec.'97	Talcher-Angul (18 kms.) and Sambalpur-Maneshwar (16 kms.) section have been completed. For remaining, the work is under progress.
2. Daitari-Banspani	20.00	Dec.'98 if private funding can be arranged.	Work in progress.
3. Lanjigarh-Junagarh	1.00	Tenth Plan	Land acquisition in progress. Work has been taken up in small stretch where land has been acquired.
4. Khurda Road-Bolangir	1.00	Tenth Plan	Final Location Survey has been taken up and preparation of land plans is in progress.
5. Haridaspur-Paradeep	1.00	Tenth Plan	Final Location Survey has been taken up.

1

2

3

4

Gauge Conversion

1. Rupsa-Bangripusi	00.50	End of IX Plan	The work would be taken up after obtaining the clearance from CCEA.
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Doublings

1. Gajpatinagar-Vijayanagras	5.90	Dec '97	Work in progress.
2. Rajatgarh-Nergundi	5.16	Dec '97	Work in progress.
3. Raghunathpur-Rahama patch doubling	8.00	Dec '99	Land acquisition in progress. Tenders for work invited.

Electrification

1. Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar	10.00 and Rs. 30 crs. under BOLT	March, 2000	<p>Electrification work of Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar section has been approved with private funding. The work has not been physically taken in hand so far because of very high prices quoted by the bidders in the Tender under BOLT scheme. Planning Commission was approached to allow execution of the work under conventional system with Budgetary support.</p> <p>Planning Commission have now desired that approval of Expanded Board be obtained, for executing the work under Railway funding. Accordingly, the proposal is being submitted before the Expanded Board.</p>
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(d) to (f). There is no proposal to electrify Raipur-Waltair section, at present.

[Translation]

Branch Post Office in U.P.

381. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such villages in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Khurja, which fulfil the stipulated conditions for opening Branch Post Offices and the Post Offices have still not been opened there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the branches of post offices are likely to be opened there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 2894 villages in Uttar Pradesh fulfil the part of norms opening of post office relating to population and distance only. The financial norm for opening post offices is examined depending upon the

availability of targets and resources. Extra departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in the current financial year in 32 villages fulfilling all the norms relating to distance, population and income. No village in Khurja fulfils the stipulated conditions of opening of Post Office.

(b) and (c). Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subjects to fulfilment of Departmental norms and availability of resources.

[English]

Policy on Satellite

382. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any policy on satellite communication has been formulated;

(b) if so, the salient features and details of such a policy; and

(c) if not, the time by which such policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The policy on satellite communication in India is being evolved.

(c) The policy is likely to be formulated during the year 1997.

Post and Telegraph/Telecommunication System in Gujarat

383. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any proposal made by the Gujarat Government for the development of Post and Telegraph and Telecommunication system during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Two proposals for opening of Post Offices at Dediyan Industrial Estate, Mehsana District and Udyog Bhawan, Gandhinagar were received from Gujarat State Government. No proposal has been received from Gujarat Government for the development of Telegraph service or for the development of Telecommunication System during the last two years.

(c) Opening of Post at Dediyan Industrial Estate, Mehsana Distt. and Udyog Bhawan, Gandhinagar has not been found justified on the basis of norms for opening of Post Offices.

Department of Telecom. under its programme of modernisation of Telegraph Service has been taken up the following developmental schemes during the last two years :

1. Store and Forward Message Switching System (SFMSS)-66 lines was upgraded to 128-Lines system in September, 1994 at Central Telegraph Office, Ahmedabad.
2. SEMSS-32L system was installed in October, 1994 at CTO Rajkot.
3. Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs) are working at Ahmedabad (2 Nos.) Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Surat, Baroda, Bharuch, Anand, Godhra and Jamnagar CTOs.
4. 8 EKBCs and 72 EKBs are under installation.

Extension of Asansol Telephones

384. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Adra and Purulia under Asansol Telephones to enable people to get access of local dialing facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of part (a).

(c) Adra is a short distance charging area (SDCA) forming part of Purulia long distance charging area (LDCA). Purulia and Asansol are two different LDCAs situated approx. 60 kms apart. Local dialling is not admissible between two different LDCAs under the existing policy.

Indians Ferried by AI and IA from UAE

385. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians ferried by Air India and Indian Airlines from United Arab Emirate (UAE) recently in the wake of amnesty declared by UAE Government which resulted in exodus of Indians;

(b) the number of Indians stranded in UAE even after the expiry of amnesty period; and

(c) the steps taken to bring them back to India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Air India and Indian Airlines carried 37430 and 4626 passengers respectively under the amnesty scheme.

(b) and (c). There has been no demand for ferrying Indians from UAE under the amnesty scheme after the expiry of the deadline.

[Translation]

Drinking Water Facility to Passengers

386. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways supply drinking water only for First Class AC and Second Class AC categories of passengers in the trains;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making the provision to provide drinking water facility to Second class passengers who travel in large number;

(c) whether the Government propose to install water taps at many places on Platforms; and

(d) if so, the time by which an early action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Drinking water arrangements have been provided to First AC and AC 2-Tier passengers. Coach Attendants of First Class coaches carry water for supply to passengers. In addition, instructions also exist for provision of jerry cans in sleeper coaches of long distance trains. As the second class ordinary coaches are not manned and there is continuous ingress and egress of the passengers, adequate drinking water

arrangements are made for the passengers at the platforms/stations.

Further, drinking water arrangements at stations has been strengthened over the years by providing water coolers of varying capacity, a large number of water stands with multiple taps/single point taps suitably spaced on platforms, water huts, water trolleys etc. small stations, drinking water arrangements are ensured through matkas, tube-wells, ring wells, buckets, hand-pumps, etc. Requisite complement of permanent watermen is also available as a back-up for maintenance and supply of drinking water arrangements.

Services of social voluntary organisations are also obtained to supplement the railways' efforts. Donation of water coolers from private parties is also being accepted. The strengthening of the arrangements as per requirement is a continuous process.

11.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock*

12.00 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at
Twelve of the Clock*

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

12.01 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ram Nagina Mishra and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.01½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Notification Under Apprentices Act, 1961, etc.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2650 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 14th September, 1996 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 239(E) dated the 23rd March, 1995 issued under sub-section (1) and (2) of section 24 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

- (2) A copy of the Central Apprenticeship Council (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 390 in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 1996 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-604/96]

- (3) A copy of Oil Mines (Amendment) Regulations, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399 in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1996 under section 61A of the Mines Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-605/96]

Notification Under Article 356 (3) of the Constitution

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 19th September, 1996 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Gujarat published in Notification No. G.S.R. 429(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1996, under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-606/96]

- (ii) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 19th September, 1996, made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above proclamation published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-607/96]

- (2) A copy each of the Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Governor of Gujarat dated the 13th and 18th September, 1996 to the President.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-608/96]

- (3) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 23rd October, 1996 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier proclamation issued by him on the 19th September, 1996 in relation to the State of Gujarat published in Notification No. G.S.R. 489(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 1996, under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-609/96]

- (4) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 17th October, 1996 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier

proclamation issued by him on the 18th October, 1995 in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 481(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October 1996, under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-610/96]

- (5) (i) A copy of the proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 17th October, 1996 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh published in Notification No. G.S.R. 482(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 1996, under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-611/96]

- (ii) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 17th October, 1996, made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above proclamation published in Notification No. G.S.R. 483(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 1996.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-612/96]

- (6) A copy each of the Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh dated 15th and 16th October, 1996 to the President.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-613/96]

**Income Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1996
Promulgated Under Article 123 (2) (a) of the
Constitution etc.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996 (No. 31 of 1996) (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by the President on the 14th November, 1996, under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-614/96]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Tourism Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-615/96]

**Review on the working of and Annual Report of
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam for
1995-96, alongwith audited Accounts etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF
MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : Sir, I
beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-616/96]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-617/96]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Sponge Iron India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-618/96]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-619/96]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-620/96]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-621/96]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-622/96]

**Special Order of President authorising Governor of
Goa for additional expenses during 1995-96, Under
Tour Expenses etc.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :
(a) Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Maqbool Dar, beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982 :

- (i) Special Order made by the President authorising Governor of Goa for additional expenses during 1995-96 under 'Tour Expenses' of Schedule II

to the Governor (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-623/96]

- (ii) Special Order made by the President authorising Governor of Tamil Nadu for additional expenses during 1994-95 under 'Hospitality Expenses', Maintenance and Repairs of Furnishings, Contract Allowance and Tour expenses of Schedule II to Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-624/96]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. U. 14011/160/89-Delhi (1) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st July 1996 making certain amendments in the Notification No. U. 14011/160/89-Delhi (i) Dated the 6th January, 1990 so as to extend the period of supersession of MCD for an additional period of four months with effect from the 1st August 1996, under sub-section (4) of section 490 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-625/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of Nathpa Jhokri Power Corporation Limited Shimla, for 1995-96 alongwith audited accounts etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following paper (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 -
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1995-96
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-626/96]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Finance Corporation and the Ministry of Power, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-627/96]

Review on the working of and Annual Report of the National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. New Delhi for 1994-95 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 -
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-628/96]

Proclamation Under Article 356 of the Constitution and Notification Under All India Services Act, 1951, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 9th October, 1996 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier Proclamation issued by him on the 18th July, 1990 in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 461(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th October 1996, under article 356(3) of the Constitution

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-629/96]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 -

(i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 444 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1996.

(ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1996.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-630/96]

12.02 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 26th August, 1996:

- (1) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1996
- (2) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1996
- (3) The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (Vote on Account) No. 2 Bill, 1996
- (4) The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 1996
- (5) The Working Journalists and Other News Papers Employees (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1996.

(ii) I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Second Session of Eleventh Lok Sabha and assented to by the President

- (1) The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1996
- (2) the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill 1996
- (3) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1996
- (4) The Depositories Bill, 1996
- (5) The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996
- (6) The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1996.
- (7) The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Fourth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English version) of the Standing Committee on

Communications on the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 1996 relating to the Department of Telecommunications.

(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

MOTION RE : REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT) BILL - EXTENSION OF TIME

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I beg to move

"That this House do extend upto 9 December 1996 the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Bill, 1996"

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend upto 9 December, 1996 the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Bill, 1996."

The motion was adopted

12.04 hrs.

DELHI DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL *

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delhi Development Act, 1957."

The motion was adopted

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : I introduce the Bill *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

12.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 22, 1996/Agrahayana 1, 1918 (Saka).

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