

1	2
AUSTRIA	Collaboration in areas of hardened steel rails, points and signalling. The Austrian side also mentioned about their interest in participating in the Delhi Mass Railway Transit System.
ROMANIA	It was agreed to study the possibility of setting up of working groups in Railway.
CZECH REPUBLIC	Indian side conveyed its interest in providing support and services in the following areas in the railway sector:
	(i) Technical and management support services for repair and maintenance of rolling stock.
	(ii) Procurement of spare parts.
	(iii) Supply of locos along with spare parts to specific performance.
	(iv) Traffic audit for developing the standard of maintenance of locos, coaches and wagons.
	(v) Contract maintenance packages.
	(vi) Technical assistance in the field of OHE
	(vii) Rehabilitation of railway track and bridges.
	(viii) Rehabilitation of loco workshop.
	(ix) Leasing/supply of locos.
	(x) Supply/Leasing of other rolling stock.
SLOVENIA	-do-
RUSSIA	A meeting took place both Russian Transport Minister and M.R. Three areas of cooperation between Indian and Russian Railways have been identified, these being:
	(a) Transport of import-export cargo; this will be mostly by containers by a combined rail-cum-sea route.
	(b) Transfer of technology, including imports from Russia in areas as suited to Indian Railways.
	(c) Cooperation in the construction of railway lines and maintenance of assets via IRCON & RITES.
	Working Groups for item (a) and (b) are under formation.
NEPAL	Greater Janakpur Development Project Broad Gauge Rail line between Raxaul and Birganj.

1	2
GERMAN	Improvement of signalling on Delhi-Kanpur Corridor (yet to be finalised)
AUSTRALIA	Government of India and Government of Australia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 3rd October, 1994 for the implementation of Railway Simulator Project under India-Australia Development Cooperation Programme.

[English]

Proposals for Promotion of Tourism in Gujarat

5245. SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted various proposals for the promotion of tourism in the State during 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government on each of the proposals; and

(c) the details of financial assistance given to Gujarat during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) 11 projects submitted by the Government of Gujarat for central financial assistance were approved and a sum of Rs. 82.21 lakhs was sanctioned during 1996-97. These projects included Flood lighting and refurbishment of monuments, tourist reception centres, public conveniences, etc. The amount sanctioned for various tourism projects in Gujarat during last three years are as given below:-

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	21.95
1995-96	7.98
1996-97	82.21

Conversion of LPT into HPT, Himachal Pradesh

5246. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reception of programme being relayed through the Dharamshala LPT, Himachal Pradesh is very poor as compared to Lahore Station of Pakistan television;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert the LPT into HPT in Dharamshala;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be converted;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the telecasting time of Shimla Doordarshan Kendra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3 to 4 years, after approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Voluntary Organisation for Welfare Schemes

5247. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by his Ministry of by the concerned Ministries to inform Voluntary Organisations about various welfare schemes which are intended to be implemented through them;

(b) whether in the absence of providing timely information in the local languages, these organisations are not in a position to take advantage of the schemes; and

(c) whether the Government propose to bring changes by utilising the services of the State Governments, nodal voluntary agencies, the press, electronic media etc., so that more and more Voluntary agencies will come forward to implement these welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Daily Running of Trains

5248. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trains Ganga-Jamuna and Sarayu-Jamuna run between Ayodhya to Delhi are proposed to be plied daily;

(b) if so, the date by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Railway Heading Towards Debt Trap

5249. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are heading towards debt trap;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the new projects proposed in the Budget are insufficient to meet the necessities of tribals; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) This Govt. has decided to accord priority to projects in backward and tribal areas to expedite their development. A number of new projects have been taken up in the last one year in such areas. Further, more projects will be sanctioned in future, depending upon availability of funds and budgetary support from the Government.

[Translation]

Heavy Passenger Traffic

5250. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing passenger traffic on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delh-Rewari sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to electrify the Delhi-Jind and Delhi-Rewari railway sections so as to provide superfast rail facilities like E.M.U. to the passengers of these areas;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to conduct any survey in this regard; and

(f) the plans being formulated by the Government to provide superfast rail facilities to cope up with the increasing passenger traffic on these sections in case the railway lines of these sections are not electrified?

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

(b) The daily average number of passengers on Delhi-Bahadurgarh-Rohtak-Jind and Delhi-Rewari sections during the year 1996-97 has shown an increase of 23% and 2.8% respectively in comparison to the last year, i.e., 1995-96.