

[English]

Design of Wagons

1029. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to improve the design of wagons and upgradation of technology for manufacturing of wagons and locomotive coaches;

(b) if so, the details of proposals finalised/under consideration implications thereof;

(c) the details regarding import of locomotives/coaches made during the last three years and proposals under consideration for the current year;

(d) whether the Government are considering to import specially designed coaches for specific trains to attract and promote the tourism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Design improvements and upgradation in technology of rolling stock viz. locomotives, coaches and wagons is a continuous process.

(b) Among others, a few recently finalised technological upgradation proposals are as under :-

(i) *Electric Locomotive* -

Transfer of technology from M/s. ABB, Switzerland for indigenous manufacture of state-of-art technology energy efficient electric locomotive with 3-phase a.c. drive, GTO based thyristor, microprocessor control having regenerative braking feature as energy saving device at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.

(ii) *Diesel Locomotives* -

Transfer of technology agreement with M/s. General Motors, USA for manufacture of modern fuel efficient 4000 HP Diesel locomotives at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

(iii) *Coaches* -

Transfer of technology agreement with M/s. Linke Hofmann Busch, Germany for manufacture of modern light weight coaches at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

(c) No import of Diesel Locomotives or coaches has been made during the last three years and it is also not likely to materialise during the current year.

The details of energy efficient 3-phase a.c. drive, GTO based, microprocessor control Electric locomotives imported under Transfer of Technology during last three

years and the proposals for the current year are as under :-

(i) Ten passenger locomotive alongwith one loco as bank of spare and six fully assemble freight locomotive have been received so far during 1995-96 and 1996-97. Besides, ten freight locomotive in semi knocked down/completely knocked down condition have also been received during 1996-97 and four freight locomotives along with two locos as bank of spares in semi knocked down/completely knocked down condition are expected to be received during 1996-97 from M/s. ABB, Switzerland which will be assembled at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.

(ii) There is no proposal under consideration for importation of electric locomotive for the current year.

(d) Government have not considered importing of coaches specially designed for tourist traffic but has permitted the tourist train operators to obtain specially designed coaches for this purpose either import or from India.

(e) As the tourist train operators are yet to finalise the design and their source of coaches, no details are yet available.

Railway Bridge on Ghaghra River

1030. SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct railway bridge on Ghaghra river in Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on above bridge is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(b) Foundation stone has been laid by Prime Minister on 18.08.96. Tenders for the bridge from pre-qualified firms have been floated. Work is planned to be completed within the 9th Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of more EMU trains between Bardhaman and Asansol

1031. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce more EMU trains between Bardhaman and Asansol section;

(b) if so, whether any new services proposed to be introduced during the current year;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to fulfil the demand of the people to start EMU service between Barddhaman and Chittaranjan and between Asansol and Chittaranjan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether more EMU trains proposed to be provided in this section to reduce over-crowding of Asansol-Barddhaman section; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Introduction of trains service including EMU/MEMU services is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification and operational feasibility and resource availability.

(b) There is no such proposal at present

(c) and (d). Eight (8) pairs of M/EMU locals along with two (2) conventional rake trains serve the Barddhaman-Asansol section. Running of M/EMU trains on Barddhaman-Chittaranjan or Asansol-Chittaranjan section can be considered only after electrification of Asansol-Madhupur-Jha-Jha section

(e) There is no such proposal at present

(f) Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Roads Digging in Himachal Pradesh

1032 SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Works Department has dugged up roads in Himachal Pradesh for laying the telephone cables;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made full payment to the Public Works Department of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the full payment is likely to be made in this regard?

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

(b) to (d). Invariably the payment for the road cutting and restoration is paid in advance before commencement of cable laying on the basis of approximate calculation. The final bills are settled on actual measurements and in case of disputes joint inspection is also done. Out of the bills of Rs. 22.8 crores received for the period 1.4.93 to 30.9.96 only

Rs. 4.8 crores are pending due to various reasons given below.

(i) Rates charged by PWD field units are at variance than those fixed by State Government.

(ii) Disputes about measurements.

(iii) Dispute about type of road.

(iv) In cases, where digging has not been completed. However, a letter has been received from Hon'ble Minister, PWD, H.P. Government indicating the balance amount as Rs. 10.21 crores. Chief Engineer, PWD, H.P. has been requested to supply the details so that the figures are reconciled.

(e) All efforts are being made to make the Payment of pending bills within two months wherever the works are completed and no dispute exists.

[English]

Telephone facility to Freedom Fighters

1033 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone facility on priority basis is available to freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to provide such facility?

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

(b) The freedom fighters are eligible for one telephone connection at a place where they are normally available under Non-OYT/Swatantra Senani (Non-OYT-SWS) category : subject to technical feasibility. No installation fee is charged under this category and only half of the normal rental is charged. This facility is also available to the widows of the freedom fighters who are in receipt of pension under Freedom Fighters family pension scheme.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above

PCO in West Bengal

1034 SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of requests received by West Bengal Telecom Circle, Calcutta from individuals/associations/ Clubs regarding providing of PCO and tax facility at Mathabhanga district Coochbehar (West Bengal) during the year 1996;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon; and