

Increase in Frequency

2592. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to increasing the frequency of EMU service between Asansol and Barddhaman section of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that frequency of EMU services can be done by using the existing rakes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Provision of additional train services including on Asansol-Barddhaman sector is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and traffic justification.

With effect from 01.8.97 one pair of MEMU service has been provided on Asansol-Barddhaman section in lieu of a conventional service.

(c) to (e) The frequency of peak hour train services cannot be increased with existing rakes due to operational difficulties like path constraints and time necessary for maintenance etc.

Reservation for SC/ST in Railways

2593. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide thirty percent reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the railway catering services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which and the manner in which the said reservations are likely to be effected?

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

(b) and (c) The reservations (20% for Scheduled Castes and 10% for Scheduled Tribes) will be effected by inviting applications from these categories with immediate effect.

Deposit of Huge Amount

2594. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the huge quantity of granite tiger stone good quality of tiles and

quartz deposits huge amount at P.S. Saltora under the district of Bankura in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes Sir. Good quality tiger stone (decorative stones) are available at P.S. Saltora area in Bankura district of West Bengal. Further cherty quartz is also reported from Benageria and Chhotasagara in Bankura district, West Bengal.

(b) Granite being a minor mineral, the grant of mineral concessions for the same is governed by the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments. As per information available, Govt. of West Bengal has reserved the area under reference for exploitation by a State Public Sector Undertaking named West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation.

Reduction in Frequency of Rajdhani Express

2595. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the frequency of Rajdhani Express plying between New Delhi and Jammu has been reduced from twice a week to once a week;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received many representations against this step; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Nizamuddin-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani Express is a weekly train. However, a weekly Summer Special Rajdhani Express was run between Nizamuddin and Jammu Tawi from 19.4.97 to 30.6.97.

(c) and (d) No representations have been received in the regard.

MARR System

2596. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Multi Access Radio Relay systems procured by DOT so far;

(b) the total requirement of DOT of such system by 2001;

(c) whether DoT propose to procure 6000 pieces of this system for the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total cost involved in procurement of these pieces and criteria adopted for procurement of such system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) About 12800 Multi Access Radio Relay Systems have been procured so far.

(b) to (d) The requirement for the year 1997-98 is about 3420 systems. The requirement for subsequent years has not been assessed.

(e) The total cost involved for 3420 systems is about Rs. 134 crores. The systems are being procured through an open tendering process;

Introduction of Train between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai

2597. SHRI BHAKTACHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request/proposal from Orissa for introduction of second train from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and provision of one 3 tier A.C. and three second class sleeper coaches in Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express;

(b) if so, since when such request is pending with the Government; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Some representations were received for provision of an Express train to Mumbai from Bhubaneswar and provision of A.C. - 3 tier sleeper coaches in 1019/1020 Konark Express. These have been examined.

With effect from 01.07.97, 1019/1020 Konark Express is running with 1 AC- Three tier and 10 sleeper coaches. Its load has also been augmented from 15 to 16 coaches. However it has not been found feasible to introduce an additional service between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai due to Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2598. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in the conversion of Hotagi-Bijapur and Bijapur-Gadag rail lines into broad gauge;

(b) the earlier target for completion of the said gauge conversions;

(c) whether the said works have been included in the priority list of railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Constraint of resources.

(b) The earlier target date for Bijapur-Hotgi section was December 1996 while for Bijapur-Gadag section it had not been fixed. The work will now be completed on Bijapur-Hotgi section by December, 1997 and on the rest of the section two years later.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

STD/ISD Telephone Booths

2599. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in the all telecommunication circles of Bihar, circle-wise;

(b) the names of circles for which advisory committees have been set up for the allotment of STD/ISD booths;

(c) the number of persons applied for STD/ISD booth in Sasaram circle and the dates on which their applications were received by the office;

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the applications pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in various SSAs of Bihar circle are given in the Annexure.

(b) STD PCO allotment committees have been reconstituted in all the 17 SSAs of Bihar Telecom Circle as per Statement attached.

(c) Sir, In Sasaram SSA, a total of 685 persons applied for STD/ISD booths progressively since the introduction of scheme.

(d) The STD PCO connections are released progressively subject to eligibility and technical feasibility.

(e) Does not arise as there is no erring official.