

the demand by attaching AC-3 coach with this train and convert the rake into air-brakes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) An additional A.C. 2-Tier Sleeper coach is being provided on 6003/6004 Mail from 1.8.97.

(c) Few passengers remain on waiting list.

(d) to (f) Conversion of long distance trains into air-brake and deployment of AC 3-tier sleeper coaches are being done in a phased manner. Conversion of 6003/6004 Mail into air-brake and deployment of A.C. 3-tier sleeper on this train will also be considered alongwith similar demands in later years.

Telephone Bills

361. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Rent Rebate and RNP charges and surcharges waived by GM (North) MTNL during 1995-96 on account of dead telephones have not been adjusted in Telephone Bills till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto; and

(c) the reasons for adding the amount of REDU, FRECAL in the telephone bills for the period when the phone was lying dead for months together ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per records, no rent rebate is pending. Some cases of RNP charge and surcharge waived are pending for adjustment.

(b) As mentioned above, no rent rebate case is pending. Regarding RNP charges & surcharges waived, only a few cases are pending. In these cases either a declaration from the subscriber or original bill is requested for stamping with a view to safeguarding the Government revenue. The efforts are being made to clear these cases also within one month.

(c) The free calls are permitted for each Bi-monthly

Billing Cycle. Prorata free calls for the period of rebate are reduced from the total free calls or in other words amount on account of these free calls is reduced from the amount of rental rebate allowed.

Replacement of Railway Tracks

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pathetic condition of the outdated and very old rail tracks causing frequent derailing and accidents of trains between Kasaragod and Cannanore sector in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to replace such tracks ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) In the past three years there was no accident due to track defects in Cannanore-Kasaragod section. This section is 85.6 km in length and the track consists of 90R rails laid on CST-9 sleepers. The rails have carried a total GMT of 164 only as against the safe limit of 300.

(b) However on condition basis, 34 km. length of rail renewals and 31 km sleeper renewals have been sanctioned. During 1997-98, 17 kms of rails and sleepers are planned for renewal.

Telephone service in Dharwad District

363. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which have been provided telephone facility and the villages not connected with telephone service in Dharwad district of Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal for expansion of communication services in this district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1221 Nos. of villages have been provided telephone facility and 123 Nos. of villages are without telephone facility in Dharwad District of Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The remaining 123 villages are planned to be provided with telephone facility during the current financial year.