

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Work on Neemuch-Ratlam section is already in progress and is targetted to be completed within the 9th plan. Gauge conversion of the rest of the section i.e. Ratlam-Mhow is not yet sanctioned.

[English]

**Infiltration by Foreign Poachers
in A&N Islands**

1331. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of regular infiltration of Foreign Poachers in A&N Islands;

(b) if so, the number of Poachers held; Vessels apprehended; arms and ammunitions detected and the follow-up action taken during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action contemplated for the safety and security of A&N Islands?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

1. The details regarding the vessels and crew apprehended year-wise are indicated below:-

Year	Number of Vessels	Number of Crew
1995	6	48
1996	15	140
1997	39	150
1998(Till May 1998)	12	154

2. All the apprehended vessels and crew were handed over to Andaman & Nicobar Administration for taking appropriate action under Maritime Zones of India Act and rules thereunder.

3. Coast Guards ships and aircrafts in coordination with Navy maintain regular surveillance and patrolling in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to check illegal activities and ensure safety and security of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In addition to above Army and Air Force units are also used to augment the surveillance as and when required.

[Translation]

BALCO

1332. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ancillary units registered at present for various works of BALCO Aluminium Plant;

(b) the names of the works for which these have been registered; and

(c) the details of new Ancillary units to be registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) There are 13 ancillary units registered at present with Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO) for various works.

(b) These units are registered mainly for Ferrous and Non-Ferrous castings, Burnt lime, Machining Items, Fabrication, Covering Flux Degasser, etc.

(c) At present, BALCO have no proposal to register new ancillary units.

Linking of Backward Area with Main Rail Line

1333. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed schemes to link backward area of Maharashtra with main railway lines;

(b) the status of Gondia-Nagbhid-Mool Girchiroli-Chanderpur rail line;

(c) whether the survey of Varora-Umrer-Chimur rail line has been completed;

(d) the time by which the Construction work of the above line is likely to be commenced and completed;

(e) whether there is any proposal to convert Nagpur-Nagbhir narrow gauge line into broad gauge line; and

(f) if so, the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A number of new rail line projects have been taken up to link the backward areas of Maharashtra. These are as under:-

NAME OF PROJECT	PRESENT PROGRESS
NEW LINES	
i. Amravati-Narkhed	The work is in progress. Earthwork has been taken up on 18 out of 27 sections and 90% work on Amravati station building has been completed.
ii. Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajinath	The Final Location Survey has been completed for 15 kms. from Ahmednagar end and land acquisition proceedings are in progress together with construction of station building at Beed. Work would be take up, once State Government makes available the land.
iii. Baramati-Lonand via Phaltan	The work has been included in the Budget, 1997-98 and will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.

(b) The gauge conversion of Gondia-Nagbhid-Chanda Fort section has been completed. Work on the parallel additional line between Chanda Fort-Ballarshah is in progress and is presently targetted for completion by 31.12.98.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Due to the unremunerative nature of the line and the severe resource constraints being faced by Railways, the project could not be considered further.

(e) and (f) A survey for gauge conversion of Nagpur-Nagbhid line has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible, once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Slum Improvement Programme

1334. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released for Slum Improvement Programmes during 1997-98, State-wise; and

(b) the number of slums improved during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Under National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) during 1997-98, Rs. 268.39 crores were released by the Department of Expenditure as Additional Central Assistance to States. The details of State-wise released of funds given in the enclosed Statement. This programme is monitored at the State level.

Prior to July 1996, Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums (EIUS) was a part of Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) thereafter, it was replaced by Basic

Minimum Services Programme. Hence, Annual Plan 1996-97 onwards, Planning Commission do not separately indicate the outlays approved under MNP in the approval letters issued by the Planning Commission. As per the information available with this Ministry about 8.85 lakhs slum dwellers were benefited under this programme by Feb., 1998 during the year 1997-98.

Statement

Release of Additional Central Assistance for Slum Development Scheme 1997-98

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	States	Amount Allocated	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
I. SPECIAL CATEGORY STATES:			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	100	88
2.	Assam	284	207
3.	Himachal Pradesh	100	88
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	418	374
5.	Manipur	100	88
6.	Meghalaya	100	88
7.	Mizoram	100	88
8.	Nagaland	100	88
9.	Sikkim	100	88
10.	Tripura	100	88
	TOTAL-I:	1502	1285
II. NON-SPECIAL CATEGORY STATES:			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2945	2205