

(d) if so, the details of posts and expenditure incurred so far and the names of persons selected/appointed;

(e) whether the Corporation introduced voluntary retirement scheme in 1991-92;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of persons who sought voluntary retirement in each year so far;

(g) whether there has been under-utilisation of resources and manpower in the Corporation as reported in 'Financial Express' dated 25th March, 1997; and

(h) if so, the details and reasons therefor in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the losses incurred by Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) during the last three years are as under:-

Year	1994-95	: Rs. 14.03 crores
	1995-96	: Rs. 12.24 crores
	1996-97	: Rs. 14.10 crores (Provisional)

MECL has been continuously incurring losses from 1990-91 onwards. The total accumulated losses are of the order of Rs. 64.10 crores.

(c) and (d) The Corporation spent Rs. 4,09,813.10 (Rupees Four lakhs Nine thousand Eight hundred thirteen and paise ten only) on advertisement for 49 posts. The details of posts are as under:-

General Manager (Mining)	1
Chief Manager (Mining)/(P&A)/(Finance)	3
Manager (Finance)	1
Dy. Manager (Mining)	2
Dy. Manager (F. Fin.)	1
Company Secretary	1
Asstt. Manager (Mining)	2
Asstt. Manager (Finance)	1
Sr. Mining Engineer	6
Mining Engineer	5
Management Trainee (Mining)/(P&A)/ (Finance)/(Mechanical)	16
Industrial Trainee (Mining)/(Mech.)/ (Electrical)	10
Total	49

No person has been appointed as yet.

(e) and (f) MECL introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme in July, 1992. The main reason for introduction of VRS was to reduce the surplus manpower. The details of employees who opted for retirement under VRS during October, 1992 to 31st March, 1997 are as under:-

Year	Executive	Non-Executive	Total
1992-93 (Oct. 92-March, 93)	07	43	50
1993-94	67	507	574
1994-95	38	238	276
1995-96	07	60	67
1996-97	20	48	68
Total	139	896	1035

(g) and (h) Due to reduced budgetary support for promotional exploration projects and in the absence of adequate contractual exploration projects, there has been under-utilisation of resources and manpower. Due to financial constraints, replacement and repairs of old drilling machines was not possible, hence lower productivity.

[Translation]

Railway Crossings

6386. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway crossings in Nagpur district of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of such railway crossings on which under-bridges or over-bridges are proposed to be constructed and the number of such crossings where bridges have been constructed; and

(c) the reasons for not constructing such bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 221 Nos.

(b) There are 6 nos. of level crossings on which Road Under Bridges or Road Over Bridges are proposed and 5 nos. of level crossings on which Road Under/Over Bridges have been constructed in Nagpur.

(c) Road Over Bridges/Under Bridges have been considered where proposals have been sponsored by the State Government. For other crossings, no proposals have been sponsored by the State Govt. as yet.

[English]

Stoppage of Bandra Express

6387. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make