

1	2	3
26.	Kumari Saroj Khaparde	-Do-
27.	Shri Virendra Kataria	-Do-
28.	Shri Mo Khan Azmi	-Do-
29.	Shri Bratin Sengupta	-Do-
30.	Shri Satya Dev Singh	-Do-
31.	Smt. Saroj Rani	-Do-
32.	Shri E. Ahamed	-Do-
33.	Smt. Zuhara Ahamed	-Do-
34.	Shri Govindram Miri	-Do-
35.	Smt. Parvati Miri	-Do-
36.	Dr. A.K. Patel	-Do-
37.	Dr. K.P. Ramalingan	-Do-
38.	Dr. P.R.S. Venkatesan	-Do-
39.	Shri Raghavji	-Do-
40.	Shri R.C. Tripathi, Secretary, M/O Pari. Affairs.	
41.	Shri Dhani Ram, Under Secretary, M/O Pari. Affairs.	

Projects in North-East Railway

6431. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to experts the projects proposed in Railway Budget during 1996-97 for North-East have been suffering from various drawbacks;

(b) if so, the details of drawbacks;

(c) whether the failure to include the section from New Jalpaiguri to New Bogaigaon on Northeast Frontier Railway for double track is one of the major drawbacks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify the position so that such omission may not lead to serious traffic congestion in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Gauge conversion work from New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Bongalgaon has been included in the budget 1997-98 and will provide an alternative BG route between New Jalpaiguri to New Bongaigaon, serving the purpose of doubling.

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited

6432. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation

Limited has drawn up plans for exploration of minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where Corporation proposes to undertake exploration work;

(c) whether the funds have been sanctioned to the Corporation to undertake the exploration work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Plan for exploration drawn by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) includes drilling 18,00,000 metres, mining 10,000 metres, detailed geological mapping 1200 sq. km., sampling and analysis of 3,00,000 samples. MECL has planned for undertaking exploration in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnatak, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved a 9th Plan provision of Rs. 35 crores for promotional and Rs. 25 crores for capital expenditure (provisional).

Silghat-Chaparmukh Railway Service

6433. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Silghat-Chaparmukh railway service has been closed since 1993 causing great inconvenience to travelling public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are likely to consider to re-open the said railway line with immediate effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Silghat-Chaparmukh Railway line is existing. The Chaparmukh-Senchoa section has been converted into broad gauge, but Senchoa-Silghat section has not been in operation since 1993.

(c) and (e) Yes, Sir, by the rehabilitation of the track to make it fit for MG rail bus operation in due course.

Extension of Railway Level Crossings

6434. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway level crossings at Dairy Farm, Rayalacherum Gate and D.R. Mahal in Tirupati town are likely to be extended;

(b) if so, the width of the proposed extension; and

(c) the time by which the above crossings are likely to be extended?

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

(b) Widened to 10 metres.

(c) Work of all three level crossings has been completed in Dec., '96.

[Translation]

Extension of Financial Assistance for Development of Buddhist Tourist Centres

6435. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance was extended by the Government for execution of projects relating to the development of several Buddhist tourist centres during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance extended for each of these projects, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether these projects have been completed within their targetted time schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the projects yet to be completed showing their revised schedule?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has extended Central financial assistance to State/Union Territory Govts. for the following projects in Buddhist centres during the last three years:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)

1. Tourist Complex Lama-Yuri (J&K)	17.12
2. Refurbishment and Conservation of Hemis Monstary	19.79
3. Conservation of Spituk/Pethub Monastary	23.97
4. Launch at Nagarjuna Sagar (A.P.)	75.50
5. Tourist Complex at Tabo (H.P.)	28.30
6. Refurbishment Phedong Monastary	30.00
7. Refrubishment Phensong Monastary	30.00
8. Refurbishment Lachung Monastary	6.19
9. Ellora Festival, Ellora	0.50
10. Refurbishment of Monuments at Lalitgiri, Udaigiri, Ratnagiri (Orissa)	76.00
11. Amenities Centre Dhauli (Orissa)	20.26

The implementation and completion of these projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and these projects are at various stages of implementation by the State Govts.

In addition the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund has provided a soft loan for two projects namely; Development of infrastructure along the Buddhist circuit in U.P. and Bihar for an approx. amount of Rs. 249.14 crores and Conservation and Development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra for an amount of Rs. 69.48 crores.

[English]

Recovery of Licence Fees

6436. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 19.20 crores were collected as Licence Fees from basic services holders during the year 1996-97 as against the estimated licence fee of Rs. 2074.72;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the basic services licence holders who have not paid the licence fee till 31.3.97; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the recovery of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The amount of Licence fee realised upto 31.3.97 is Rs. 116.718 crores from two companies which have signed the Licence Agreements.

(b) and (c) 12 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have so far been issued to 8 companies for providing Basic Telephone Service in 12 Telecom Circles. Out of these, only 2 companies have paid the licence fee and signed the licences. 4 companies holding 7 LOIs have filed Civil Suits in the High Court of Delhi against Government's order for invocation of their Earnest Money Bank Guarantees due to their failure to comply with tender provisions and their cases are sub-judice. Remaining 2 companies holding LOIs for 3 Circles are required to pay Licence Fee of Rs. 683.70 crores before signing the Licences.

(d) To expedite signing of remaining Licences, Government has made appropriate efforts to resolve the issues raised by them.

[Translation]

Speed Post Services

6437. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries to which Speed Post Service is available from Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the names of the countries likely to be included under this service during the year 1997?