

steps to run EMU service between Kharagpur and Sealdah via C.C. Chord section;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay to start this service when all facilities are available;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that if this service is being introduced, the pressure on Howrah railway station would be reduced considerably; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Provision of a direct EMU service between Kharagpur and Sealdah could provide some relief to Howrah Railway Station. However introduction of direct passenger trains between Kharagpur and Sealdah via Andul-Calcutta Chord is presently not feasible due to operational and technical constraints. An Engineering-cum-traffic survey for Kharagpur-Dankuni-Sealdah sector has been taken up.

Shortage of Staff

236. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to shortage of staff, posting of Train Superintendents have been delayed in selected trains;

(b) the initiative taken by the Government to fill up the vacant post;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to promote junior Staff to Train Superintendent (TS) and create new posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the efforts which are underway to post Train Superintendents in the selected trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) The postings of Train Superintendents have been delayed in some trains due to non-availability of suitable willing staff. All out efforts are underway for posting Train Superintendents in the selected trains by deploying willing staff and creation of additional posts.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Howrah and Kanyakumari

237. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken note of the demand of the people of Karala as well as Calcutta for a superfast train between Howrah and Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce at least once a week such train between these two places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for forcing the people to avail break-journey to reach both the places ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) to (d) It has been decided to extend 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Express upto Trivendrum. Provision of a direct service between Howrah and Kanniya Kumari is presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Capacity of EMU Car Shed

238. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of homing capacity of EMU car-sheds under Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur divisions, car-shed wise;

(b) whether all the car-sheds are equipped to handle 12 coach EMU rakes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor.

(d) whether there is any proposal to modernise these car-sheds and make them fit to handle 12 coach EMU rakes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The homing capacity of EMU car sheds under Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions are as under :-

- (i) Howrah : 22 Rakes
(ii) Bandel : 18 Rakes
(iii) Narkeldanga : 17 Rakes
(iv) Sonarpur : 21 Rakes
(v) Barasat : 28 Rakes
(vi) Tikiapara : 22.5 Rakes
(vii) Panskura : 9.5 Rakes

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present there are no 12 car EMU services in Calcutta area and hence the car sheds are not planned to be equipped to handle 12 coach EMU rakes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) These sheds are provided with all necessary facilities to maintain EMU rakes. As there is no proposal to run 12 car EMU services in Calcutta, it is not necessary to make these sheds fit to maintain 12 coach EMU rakes.

Telephone Exchanges in Bardhaman

239. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of telephone exchanges at present functioning in the district of Bardhaman, West Bengal, Exchange-wise;

(b) the present capacity thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to increase the capacity of the existing exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The present capacity is 73790 lines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are given in the attached Statement-II.

Statement-I

Capacity of telephone exchanges functioning in the district of Bardhaman (West Bengal)

Sl. No.	Name of the Exchanges	Equipped Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Andal	400
2.	Asansol	11000
3.	Bagura	368
4.	Bahula	1000
5.	Barakar	3000
6.	Burnpur	2000
7.	Chinchuria	88
8.	Chittaranjan	3000
9.	Demohani	184
10.	Jamuriahat	1000
11.	Jhangra	415
12.	Kajora	416
13.	Neamatpur	2000
14.	Nutandanga	208
15.	Pandaveswar	416
16.	Panuria	184
17.	Raniganj	4000
18.	Ukhra	1000
19.	Agradwip	184
20.	Amarun	184
21.	Anguno	184
22.	Badla	368
23.	Baidyapur	208
24.	Balgona	176
25.	Bardighi	184
26.	Bhatar	336