

current year (1997-98) in Telecommunication and Postal sector are likely to be completed by 31.3.98 during the Annual Plan period.

#### Statement-I

The details of important development works in Telecommunication planned in Madhya Pradesh during the current year (1997-98) are as under :

S.No	Name of item	Annual Plan target for 1997-98
1.	Net Switching Capacity	88000 lines
2.	Direct Exchange Lines	70000 Nos.
3.	TAX Capacity (gross)	26000 Lines.
4.	Village Public Telephones	5500 Nos.

#### Statement-II

Details of important developmental works identified in the postal sector in Madhya Pradesh during the current year are :

1. Target for opening of 2 departmental sub post offices and 37 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices has been set.

Post offices are sanctioned subject to fulfillment of income, population and distance norms. In M.P. only three Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned during the year.

2. Installation of 80 multi purpose counter machines in 45 Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh is envisaged.
3. Ten extended Satellite Money Order centres are to be linked with the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) at indore, for on line receipt and transmission of Money Orders.
4. On going projects, in respect of construction of postal buildings and staff quarters are the priority for the current year. No new project has been taken up so far during the current year.

#### Utilisation Capacity of Andal Sainthia Section

241. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the utilisation capacity of the Andal-Sainthia section of Eastern Railways;

(b) the planning of the Railways to increase the frequency of Andal-Sainthia DMUs;

(c) whether the Government are considering to construct double rail line and electrify this section;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the Government are considering for better utilisation of this section ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The utilisation capacity of Andal-Sainthia section is as under :

Andal-Ukhra (12.01 Km)	–	100%
Ukhra–Pandabeswar (8.33 km)	–	65.2%
Pandabeswar–Sainthia (53.06 km)	–	78.6%

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) From Andal to Pandabeswar twin line already exists. Doubling of Pandabeswar–Sainthia section is not being considered at present. There is no proposal to electrify Andal-Sainthia line.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As utilisation depends on demand of transport, the same will improve as the demand for transport originating on and via this route increases.

#### Waiting List in Assam

242. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons who are in the waiting list seeking telephone connections in Assam, exchange-Wise;

(b) whether the Government have drawn any time-bound programme to provide them telephone connections;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of persons in Assam waiting for new telephone connections is 24827 as on 31.3.97. The exchange-wise waiting list position is indicated in the Statement enclosed.