

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no shortage of coaches for running the trains with scheduled composition.

(b) and (c). During 1996-97, Eastern Railway have been allotted new air brake coaches for introduction of 3017/3018 Howrah-Rampurhat Express. for conversion of 2307/2308 Express into air brake and during the year, they will also be given new coaches for conversion of 3143/3144 Mail into air brake. S.E. Railway have been given coaches for conversion of 2801/2802 Express into air brake. Similarly N.F. Railway will be given new coaches for conversion of 5659/5660 Kamrup Express and 5645/5646 Express into air brake during the current year.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Facilities to Railway Employees at Tikiapara Railway Yard**

2080. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees who are performing their duties in night at Tikiapara Railway Yard of Eastern Railway are facing lot of hardship in the absence of insufficient light, doctors, ambulance, telephones and canteen facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have to perform their duties at docks which are always full of dirty water;

(c) whether it is a fact that attention have been drawn towards the high officials of Eastern Railway about these problems; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

(e)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Canteen facilities are available during day time.

(b) Tikiapara is a low lying area and prone to water logging during monsoon. Pumps which are operated round the clock are provided to remove the water.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Adequate lighting arrangements are ensured at the Tikiapara Coaching Yard and the arrangements regularly checked. Adequate Telephone facilities are available at Howrah Orthopaedic Hospital of the Railway, which is about 2 Kms. from Tikiapara Yard, in addition to Doctors at Tikiapara Dispensary during day time. Meetings are held with Mayor, Howrah Municipality for the improvement of the drainage system to solve the water logging problem. [Translation]

#### **Western Television Culture in the Country**

2081. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any formal cultural policy keeping in view the increasing effect of Western Television Channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### **Paging Services**

2082. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newstime captioned "Pagers : A fat book but a few pages missing" appearing in 'The Economic Times', New Delhi dated November 6, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the measure being taken by his Ministry to meet the likely growth of the paging services subscribers base; and

(d) the reaction of the Government regarding the demand by the subscribers for cellular phones and pagers in the near future and in which area this is likely to raise the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No study of market for Paging & Cellular Services have been carried out by Department of Telecom.

(c) and (d). Department of Telecom has licensed Radio Paging and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services to Indian Registered companies on a non-exclusive basis. The number of slots for Cellular Service has been fixed as two and for Radio Paging Service between 2 to 5 in a service area. No licence has been granted for Cellular Service in Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Territorial Telecom. Circles. Also no licence has been issued for Radio Paging Service in Bihar Circle excluding Patna city. It is expected that the licensee companies shall meet the growth of paging and cellular services subscribers base in the country.