

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Catering charges included in the fare of various classes in the Rajdhani Express trains are fixed keeping in view the standard and quality of the menu, the number of services provided to the passengers between pair of stations, such as morning tea, breakfast, lunch, evening tea/snacks and dinner. The amount of these charges depends upon the services rendered.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These are based on standard menus prescribed for 1st AC and other classes separately.

[English]

Postal Facility in Maharashtra

1396. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Maharashtra where telephone facilities are available and number where such facilities are not available; and

(b) the time by which the same is proposed to be extended by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)

(i) Total No. of Post Offices	=	12324
(ii) No. of Post Offices with Telephone facility	=	4524
(iii) No. of Post Offices without telephone facility	=	7800

(b) Telephone facility will be provided to the remaining post offices on the basis of demand from Postal Authority and on technical feasibility.

[Translation]

Low and High Power Transmitters in UP

1397. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Low and High Power Transmitters operating in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether any scheme of converting Low Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters have been received from the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 9 HPTs, 57 LPTs, 20 VLPTs and 4 transposers for relay of

DD-I and 3 LPTs for DD-II service are presently operational in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Representations are received, from time to time, from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in their respective States. Schemes for expansion of TV service are, however, formulated keeping in view Doordarshan's objective of extending its reach particularly to hitherto uncovered areas in the country. The existing LPT at Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh is envisaged to be upgraded into an HPT subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(d) The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3-4 years after approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

[English]

Modernisation of Projects

1398. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private companies or multinationals in the modernisation and expansion work of projects in steel sector; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure to be incurred in modernising all the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) SAIL has undertaken modernisation programmes at its Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The modernisation programmes are currently going on. Contracts have been entered into by SAIL with multinationals/private parties/public sector undertakings for various items of work for these modernisation projects. The revival/modernisation programme of IISCO, Burnpur is under consideration. A cumulative expenditure of Rs. 11,946.92 crores is likely to be incurred on the modernisation projects of SAIL at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro.

[Translation]

Train Accidents

1399. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents occurred in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 uptill June, 1997, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for occurrence of higher number of accidents and derailments on Indore-Ujjain and Ujjain-Bhopal route under Western Railways; and

(c) the details of loss of life and property due to such accidents in areas falling under Central and Western Railway during the said period?