

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No such complaint is pending.

Faults are attended immediately after receipt of complaint.

(d) Steps are being taken to shift the STD/ISD on reliable media.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Rental rebate is given to subscriber if the telephone line remains out of order continuously for seven or more days due to departmental reasons.

Full month's rebate in rental is given if the line is continuously out of order for more than 14 days due to departmental reasons.

(g) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

[English]

Railway net work in Coochbehar

939. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations/requests for expansion of railway network in Coochbehar district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon with a view to provide better railway services there and introduction of new train from Coochbehar to Calcutta?

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

(b) and (c). (Demand No. 1)

Expansion of Rly network between Moinaguri Rly Stn. and New Coochbehar Rly Stn. via Changarabanda-Mathabhanga in order to develop railway communication in Mathabhanga and Mekhliganj two important sub-divisions, of Coochbehar where there is no Rly communication facilities:

Position :

The suggested line would be 110 kms long and will cost not less than Rs. 150 crs. The Railways are facing an acute resource crunch and have on hand a huge shelf of new line projects requiring over Rs. 6000 crs. for their completion while the funds being made available by the Planning Commission which were of the order of Rs. 220 crs. in 96-97 which will barely be enough to cater to the inflation. In view of this it would be difficult to consider construction of the suggested line till the resource position improves and some of the ongoing projects get completed.

Demand No. 2

Extn. of railway net work from New Coochbehar to Golokganj.

Position :

Golokganj is already connected to Coochbehar via Fakiragram and Alipurduar. The traffic requirements can easily be met by the existing line. The suggested line would be 80 kms and would cost about Rs. 120 crs. The Railways are facing an acute resource crunch and have on hand a huge shelf of new line projects requiring over Rs. 6000 crs. for their completion while the funds being made available by the Planning Commission which were of the order of Rs. 220 crs. in 96-97 which will barely be enough to cater to the inflation. In view of this it would be difficult to consider construction of the suggested line till the resource position improves and some of the ongoing projects get completed.

Demand No. 3

Doubling of the Malda-NJP-New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon-Guwahati BG line.

Position :

Doubling of Malda NJP has been completed except for short stretches between Dalkola and Kishanganj, where the work is in progress and would be completed by Dec'97. Between NJP and New Bongaigaon doubling is planned by conversion of the MG line and this work would be taken up in the 9th plan period. Between Bongaigaon and Guwahati, doubling will be achieved by the provision of a second line via Jogighopa and Gaolpara on which the work is planned to be completed in 97-98 subject to availability of resources.

Demand No. 4

Conversion of Alipurduar : New Coochbehar-Gitalda MG line into a BG line.

Position :

The Railways have taken up Project Unigauge for conversion of selected MG/NG lines to BG to move towards Unigauge. Due to limited availability of resources this work can be carried only in a phased manner. In the first phase lines required on urgent operational/strategic considerations, have been taken up. The said section will be considered alongwith the remaining lines when the next phase of this project is taken up.

Demand No. 5

Installation of pit line and work shed for petty repairs at New Coochbehar Rly Stn. so that trains to and from Guwahati may terminate at New Coochbehar Rly Stn. during Bundh and other troubles in Assam.

Position :

The existing maintenance facilities are adequate for the normal level of traffic handled at the station. It would not be viable to create duplicate facilities simply to handle the traffic during any bundhs in Assam.

Demand No. 6

Introduction of a new train from New Coochbehar to Calcutta

At present, there is no proposal to introduce a new train between Calcutta and New Coochbehar.

Modification in VRS

940. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for public sector as reported in the 'Times of India' dated November 7, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of changes and the financial provision made for execution of the scheme; and

(c) the tentative time schedule for execution of the modified VRS and estimated number of workers proposed to be covered, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Government are considering a proposal to modify the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) so that it may become more attractive.

(b) and (c). Do not arise as this proposal has not been examined fully by the Government.

Composition of Committees

941. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Programme Advisory Committees attached to AIR/Doordarshan Kendras are due for reconstitution;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the details of other Advisory Committees under the Ministry on which non-official/outstanding professional/prominent social activists mediemen are nominated;

(d) whether the Government have finalised composition of such committees for selection of films for Doordarshan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The term of the existing committees is upto April, 1997.

(c) This Ministry has no other Advisory Committee.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The list of persons approved for appointment as non-official members in the selection committee for selection of films for Doordarshan is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT

List of Persons approved by the Government for appointment as non-official Members in the Selection Committee for feature films

1. Shri Shailendra Shankar	Former DG: Doordarshan, Associated with Films and Society movement.
2. Shri K.C. Sharma	Former DG: AIR, an eminent Author Media Critic.
3. Ms. Sundari Sridharani	Director, Triveni Kala Sangam.
4. Smt. Indu Jain	Poetess
5. Ms. Ranjana Gauhar	Dancer
6. Shri Kamal Bhasin	3-A, (18 Flats), Friends Colony, New Delhi-110065.
7. Ms. Usha Joshi	Arts and Culture
8. Miss Kumkum Chadha	Writer and Journalist
9. Shri Idris Dehlvi	Film Journalist, Editor 'Sushma'
10. Shri M.N. Roy Choudhury	Former Dy. Director General, AIR
11. Smt. Gayatri Roy	Social worker
12. Shri Jag Mohan	Journalist, author, art critic and filmologist.
13. Shri Raghunath Raina	Former Director, Film Festival and News Services Division of AIR.
14. Shri Mohd. Shamim	Special Correspondent, Times of India, also a Film Critic
15. Smt. Vijaya Mule	Eminent Educationalist, Film-maker and media person.
16. Shri Gautam Kaul	Leading Film Critic and closely associated with film society movement.