

Sl. No.	Description	Length in kms.	Year of opening	Percentage progress	Remarks
13	Balipara-Bhalukpong MG line (Northeast Frontier Rly.)	33.45	1978-79		The final location survey is in progress.
14	Silchar-Jiribam MG line (Northeast Frontier Rly.)	50.36	Do.		Do.
15	Amguri-Tuli MG line (Northeast Frontier Rly.)	17.07	Do.		Do.
16	Lalaghat-Bhairabi MG line (Northeast Frontier Rly.)	48.77	Do.		Do.
17	Nadiad-Kapadvanj-Modasa BG line (Western Railway)	105.14	Do.	7.3	Expected to be completed in 1983.
18	Alleppey-Ernakulam BG line (Southern Railway)	51.00	1979-80		The final location survey is in progress.

Irregularities in depositing Provident Fund by Tea Gardens in North Bengal

587. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the workers and their Unions operating in tea plantations in North Bengal to the effect that the employers of many tea gardens have either misappropriated the provident fund money deducted from the earnings of the workers or failed to deposit their own share of contribution with the authorities concerned;

(b) if so, the amount involved in this irregularity;

(c) whether Government have taken action against such employers;

(d) whether the workers, who are contributing to the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, are not being given the annual statement of account and the claims for settlement of Employees Provident Fund Accounts are pending for several years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and what remedial action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Provident Fund Commissioner has reported that:

(i) Out of 281 unexempted tea estates covered under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, 41 unexempted Tea Estates were in default in payment of Provident Fund dues amounting to Rs. 77.99 lakhs including a sum of Rs. 38.77 lakhs being the employees' share.

(ii) Of the three exempted Tea Estates the employer of one Tea Estate has failed to transfer a sum of Rs. 0.52 lakh to the Board of Trustees of the exempted fund. This sum represents the employer's share only.

(c) Action is reported to have been taken by the Provident Fund authorities under section 8 (recovery of dues as arrears of land revenue) and Section 14 (prosecution) of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 against the

complaints under Section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code (breach of trust and criminal misappropriation) have been filed in cases where the employee's share of Provident Fund contributions deducted from their wages has not been remitted by the employers.

(d) and (e). The work in the West Bengal region has been in arrears for some time due to various reasons. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is taking steps to clear the arrears.

Ticketless Travelling

588. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ticketless travellers caught during the last three months Division-wise; and

(b) the amount in the shape of fine collected from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Official Recruitment Agency

589. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on setting up of an official agency for recruitment of labour for other countries; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). A proposal to set up a Corporation in the public sector for overseas recruitment is under active consideration of the Government. A final decision on the proposal has not yet been taken.

Private Recruiting Agencies

590. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing public agencies in States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Orissa have been facing stiff competition from private recruiting agencies; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under consideration to ban all the private recruiting agencies in view of the rampant irregularities in recruitment of labour for overseas employment?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Recruitment for overseas employment is being made by organisations in the public sector of the State Governments as well as through private recruiting agencies.

(b) A proposal for a new enactment on Emigration is at an advanced stage of consideration of the Government which is expected to cover all aspects of recruitment of emigrants.

Conference of Labour Secretaries

591. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Labour Secretaries of State Governments was held in New Delhi on April 18, 1980; and

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) More important of the subjects discussed at the Conference and the Conclusions reached were as under:—

(1) Revision of minimum wages in agriculture: minimum wages in