

ever, steps have been taken to strengthen communication links between the two countries which include laying of coaxial cable between Lahore and Amritsar, introduction of fully automatic telex services and satellite communication services between Bombay and Karachi.

Eklakhi-Balurghat Line

717. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of the Eklakhi-Balurghat railway line in West Bengal has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, what is the estimate of the scheme; and

(c) whether the work has been started and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):
(a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Old age pension introduced by States Statement

718. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States where the payment of old age pension scheme has come into effect;

(b) the date or the year from which old age pension has been given in those States;

(c) the amount of payment made towards old age pension, so far; and

(d) the details about the number of old ages pension beneficiaries in Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

| S. No. | State | Year when introduced | Rate of pension per month in Rs. | 1981-1982 | | Remarks |
|--------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | | | | No. of beneficiaries | Amount paid (Rs. in lakhs) | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 1977 | 30 | N.A. | 3.46* | *The amount is of budget provision. |
| 2 | Assam | X | X | X | X | Not introduced, |
| 3 | Bihar | 1974 | 30 | 22,86,202 | 6400.00 | The social security scheme covers the aged. |
| 4 | Gujarat | 1978 | 30 | 13,332 | 150.00 | Aged Agri. workers/farmers are separately covered. |
| 5 | Haryana | 1964 | 60 | 14,987 | 86.21 | The scheme was scrapped during April 1967 to March, 69. |