

(b) if so, whether the name of this place has to be included in the Time Table of Eastern Railway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The list of tourist spots published in the Time Table is not comprehensive. However, Plassey will be included from the next Time Table of Eastern Railways.

#### Waiting List at Calcutta Telephone Exchange

256. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephones connection under Calcutta Telephone Exchange-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to clear this backlog;

(c) the number of persons who got telephone connections during the year upto October, 1996, exchange-wise, and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of the Calcutta Telephones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection under Calcutta telephones, exchange-wise is given in the inclosed statement-I.

(b) It is planned to give new connections of at least 55000 lines during the current financial year 1996-97 and the remaining during the year 1997-98 except a few technically non-feasible cases.

(c) The no. of persons who got telephone connections during the year up to October, 1996 exchange-wise is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the functioning of the Calcutta telephones.

- (1) All the electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be replaced with electronic exchanges for better quality of service. Besides all further expansion is being done only with Digital Electronic Exchanges
- (2) All efforts are being made to upgrade the external plant with the introduction of ducts, use of jelly filled cables and revamping of overhead lines etc. Existing fault prone cables are being replaced to the extent possible.
- (3) All worn out telephone instruments are planned to be replaced with good quality push button instruments.
- (4) Introduction of optical fibre and digital microwave systems in junction media.
- (5) Computerisation of fault repair services.

(6) Upgradation of customer service centres.

(7) Streamlining of Billing operations.

#### STATEMENT-I

Waiting List as on 31.10.1996

S No	Exchange Name	No. of persons on waiting list
1	2	3
1	Burrabazar EWSD M	387
2	Central C-AOD	861
3	Central	1427
4	Chittaranjan	1826
5	Circus	1702
6	Picnic Garden RLU	1410
7	Alipur RLU	715
8	Alipur X Bar	710
9	Amtal RLU	203
10	Behala E 108M	4358
11	Behala X Bar	2718
12	Budge Budge RLU	725
13	Garden Reach RLU	1058
14	Jeka RLU	812
15	Modkhali C. DOT	54
16	Baishnabghata RLU	826
17	Baruipur RLU	336
18	Jadavpur E. 10BM	3841
19	Jadavpur OCB M	394
20	Narendrapur RLU	1290
21	Ranikuthi RLU	3637
22	Ballygunge PI. RLU	355
23	Kalighat E. 10BM	316
24	Kalighat X Bar	934
25	Kasba RSU	658
26	Russa EWSD M	1295
27	Russa RLU	158
28	Chowranghee RLU	11
29	City	869
30	Tiretta Bazar RLU	43
31	Tiretta Bazar I	336
32	Tiretta Bazar II	1201
33	Tiretta Bazar III	
34	Barasat RLU	1722
35	Barrackpore RLU	1894
36	Betpara RLU	2669

1	2	3	1	2	3
37.	Kalyani RLU	2815	4	Chowringhee RLU	118
38.	Panihati RLU	3612	5	Tiretta Bazar RLU	98
39.	Airport RLU	377	6	Tiretta Bazar III	98
40.	Birati RLU	988	7.	Tiretta Bazar I	120
41.	Dum Dum E 10BM	5907	8.	Tiretta Bazar II	153
42.	Dum Dum X Bar	1644	9.	Central I (E-10-B)	543
43.	Jessore Road RLU	812	10.	Central (EWCD)	1
44.	Lake Town RSU	2525	11	Central II	34
45.	Madhyamgram RLU	620	12.	Burra Bazar	444
46.	Salt Lake EWSD M		13.	Chittranjan I	253
47.	Salt Lake Fetx M		14	Chittranjan II	345
48.	Salt Lake RLU	7959	15.	Circus	748
49.	Salt Lake RSU		16.	Picnic Garden	49
50.	Bagbazar EWSD M	934	17.	Shibpur (E-10-B)	279
51.	Cossipore E 10 B	5228	18.	Shibpur I (X-Bar)	71
52.	East E 10 BM	2484	19.	Golmohar	308
53.	Andul RLU	1063	20.	Ichapur RLU	256
54.	Belurmath RLU	1467	21.	Andul RLU (669)	14
55.	Galmohar RLU	354	22.	Uluberia ILT	4
56.	Ichapur RLU	1636	23.	Salkia RLU	354
57.	Salkia RLU	3392	24.	Belurmath RLU	301
58.	Shibpur E. 10 BM	2105	25.	Uttarpara	327
59.	Shibpur X Bar	1390	26.	Uttarpara RLU	313
60.	Uluberia ILT S12	379	27.	Serampor RLU	96
61.	Chandnnagar RLU	2359	28.	Serampor	36
62.	Chinsurah E 10 BM	2192	29.	Chinsura	107
63.	Serampore X Bar	1798	30.	Chandannagar RLU	618
64.	Serampore RLU	1042	31.	Tribeni RLU	12
65.	Tribeni RLU	702	32.	Alipore RLU	213
66.	Uttarpara RLU	2134	33	Alipore	167
67.	Uttarpara X Bar	741	34.	GR RLU	32
			35.	Bally place RLU	353
			36.	Russa RLU	670
			37	Kasba RSU	197
			38.	Kalighat I	305
			39.	Kalighat II	54
			40.	Jadavpur	1398
			41.	Jadavpur II	235
			42.	Ranikuthi RLU	225
			43.	Narendrapur RLU	127
			44.	Baishnav Ghat RLU	529
			45.	BRP RLU	77
			46.	Behala	667
			47.	Behala II	232
			48.	Joka RLU	59

#### STATEMENT-II

Exchange-wise telephone connections provided upto  
31.10.96.

S.No.	Exchange	No.
1	2	3
1.	Telephone Bhawan (EWSD)	1084
2.	Telephone Bhawan (E-10-B)	137
3.	Telephone Bhawan (FETEX)	515

1	2	3
49.	Budge Budge RLU	106
50.	Amtola RLU	56
51.	Nodakhali	1
52.	Salt Lake (FETEX)	215
53.	Salt Lake RLU (E-10-B)	193
54.	Salt Lake (EWSD)	17
55.	East I	836
56.	East II	1
57.	Bagh Bazar	162
58.	Bagh Bazar RLU	503
59.	Bagh Bazar I	1087
60.	Cossipore	593
61.	Dum Dum	1112
62.	Dum Dum II	171
63.	Airport RLU	300
64.	Jessore Road RLU	468
65.	Birati RLU	482
66.	Madhyamgram	733
67.	Barasat RLU	513
68.	Panihati RLU	1015
69.	Barrackpore RLU	441
70.	Bhatpara RLU	77
71.	Kalyani RLU	85

[Translation]

#### Konkan Railway Project

257. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway project is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to salvage this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

#### Proposal to run All Assam bound Trains from Calcutta

258. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run all Assam bound trains from Calcutta with air-brake system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps are being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay to change the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express has been provided with air brake rakes and 5659/5690 Kamrup Express will be provided with air brake rakes during the current year. The remaining trains on this section will be gradually taken up for conversion into air brake alongwith other Vacuum brake trains in a phased manner depending upon the availability of air brake stock from Production Units.

#### Hardships faced by the Passengers of Kerala

259. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the passengers of Kerala while travelling from Howrah;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no super fast train running between Howrah and Kerala;

(d) if so, whether it is also a fact that all the trains from Howrah to Kerala are running via Chennai;

(e) whether any steps are being taken to introduce a superfast train between Howrah and Trivandrum via shortest route;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present, Howrah is connected with Kerala by 4 pairs of weekly express trains viz 6321/6322 Guwahati-Trivandrum, 6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah, 6313/6314 Guwahati-Cochin and 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Expresses. These services coupled with changeover facilities are by and large catering to the traffic offering between Howrah and Kerala. However, there are periods of extra rush due to festivals, holidays etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Trips to Virar of Western Railways

260. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the trips to Virar, Western Railway Local sector are increased by only two out of 52 total increased trips, as per new time-table;