

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

#### Extension of Rail Services Backward Areas

1052 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail services have not been extended to the backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any special schemes for expansion of rail services in the backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The regions including backward areas having rail network are served by passenger carrying trains.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There are plans to develop new railway lines in the North East Region, Jammu & Kashmir.

Similarly, gauge conversions have been planned is a big way to open up the backward areas of the country. Consequent to the development of the rail network, further expansion of rail services will be planned in future.

[English]

#### Extension of Railway Line upto Kandla Port

1053 SHRI PS GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Gandhidham railway line upto Kandla port and convert it into Broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be extended and converted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A broad gauge line already exists between Gandhidham and Kandla Port in addition to the MG line.

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

[Translation]

#### Stay of Howrah-Bokaro Train at Bokaro Railway Station

1054. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Howrah-Bokaro Train after its arrival at Bokaro Railway station, stops for five hours;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to extend the said Train upto Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) 2019/2020 Howrah-Bokaro Shatabdi Express has lieover of 4 hrs. 45 mts at Bokaro Steel City.

(c) There is no proposal for its extension upto Ranchi due to operational constraints.

[English]

#### Telephone Exchange for Allahabad

1055. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for setting up of telephone-exchanges in Allahabad during the current Plan period and the amount earmarked therefor;

(b) the places in Allahabad where the telephone exchanges have been set up so far and the places where the work is in progress; and

(c) the time by which the on-going telephone exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of target set for setting up telephone exchanges in Allahabad during the current plan period is given in the enclosed statement-I. The amount earmarked is Rs. 164.2 Lakhs.

(b) The details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) By March 1997.

#### STATEMENT-I

*Targets in respect of setting up of Telephone Exchanges in Allahabad during the Current Plan period (1996-97)*

Name of Exchanges	Capacity planned
1	2
1. Allahabad	1000 Lines (13K-14K)
2. Allapur	1000 Lines (4K-5K)

1	2
3. Naini	1000 Lines (2K-3K)
4. Phaphamau	1000 Lines
5. T.P. Nagar	1000 Lines
6. Sirsa	Exchange Commissioned
7. Maja	Exchange Commissioned
8. Phulpur	576 Lines
9. Sirathu	296 Lines

In addition to the above, 9 number of 256 and 5 numbers of 128P CDOT type exchanges are planned to be commissioned

#### STATEMENT-II

*Places in Allahabad where telephone exchanges have been set up so far during the current plan (1996-97) period and places where work is in progress*

Place	Status
1. Sirsa	Exchange Commissioned
2. Maja	Exchange Commissioned
3. Allahabad	Work in progress
4. Allapur	Work in progress
5. Naini	Work in progress
6. Phaphamau	Work in progress
7. T.P. Nagar	Work in progress

[Translation]

#### Telephone Adalats

1056. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of Adalats held in various Telecom circles in the country during each of the last two years, State-wise Circle-wise

(b) the number of cases settled by these Adalats and the number of cases pending and

(c) the time by which the pending cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

#### Firozabad Train Accident

1057. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured in Firozabad

train accident and the number of persons out of them have been given compensation by railways.

(b) the number of people who have not been given any compensation so far and the criteria laid down for providing such compensation.

(c) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the railways to avoid recurrence of such rail accidents on this route and other routes of Express Trains including Delhi-Agra route; and

(d) the time by which these measures are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) In the rear-end collision between 4023 UP Kalindi Express and 2801 UP Purushottam Express on 20.8.95 at Firozabad station, 310 persons were killed and 252 persons were injured.

Out of the 468 cases filed with Railway Claims Tribunal, compensation has been paid in 345 cases, 31 cases have been dismissed and in the balance 92 cases, compensation will be paid soon after these are decreed by the Tribunal.

The payment of compensation is governed by the Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1990. Under these rules, the amount of compensation payable in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs. For other injuries, the amount varies from Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 1,80,000/- depending upon the nature and gravity of injuries suffered.

(c) and (d) Measures taken to prevent such accidents :

- (i) The Government has accelerated track circuiting works on trunk routes and important main lines.
- (ii) The distance between starter and advanced starter is being reduced to 180 metres at road-side stations.
- (iii) Track circuit ahead of starter signal is being provided to make the starter signal red after the passage of the train.
- (iv) Signal circuits are being modified to ensure admission of only one train on a running line at any given time in station section.
- (v) The radio based emergency communication system between station staff, driver and guard of the running train is being introduced as one of the measures to prevent such untoward eventualities.
- (vi) In addition, ongoing safety measures like counselling, inspections/checks, monitoring have been intensified.

The above measures are being progressively implemented.