

Information on expenditure in respect of passenger amenities is not available separately for each class of passengers. Most of the amenities are common to all classes of passengers. The expenditure incurred during these years on "Passengers' and other railway users' amenities", was as follows:—

Expenditure on Passengers and other railway users' amenities	
	(Rs. lakhs)
1964-65	2,87
1965-66	4,25
1966-67	3,65

(c) In the past three years, 396 sleeper coaches (246 on B.G. and 150 on M.G.) have been added for the benefit of III class long distance passengers. The facilities provided in new III class coaches include wash basins, night lights etc; besides, 3,493 fans were fitted in old coaches not initially equipped with fans. Amenities provided at stations to all passengers, including III Class passengers, include construction of waiting halls, retiring rooms, refreshment rooms and vendors' stalls, extending, raising, widening, surfacing, covering or other improvements at platforms, provision of new over-bridges and sub-ways, improved arrangements of water supply etc.

(d) The policy is to provide more facilities in trains as well as at stations to all classes of passengers in general and III Class passengers in particular; within the funds available.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR EXPLORATION OF MINERALS

2712. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of survey of mineral resources during the years 1965-66 and 1966-67;

(b) the methods used for survey and discovery of mineral resources in our country; and

(c) whether Government consider it desirable to set up research institutes for improving old methods and devising fresh ones for exploration of hidden mineral resources in India?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHENNA REDDY):

(a) The results of survey for minerals carried out by the Geological Survey of India during the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1824/67].

(b) Surface geological mapping on large and small scales, geochemical and geophysical surveys, pitting and trenching, exploratory drilling and mining.

(c) The Geological Survey of India has already a field technique research unit to improve and devise new methods for mineral exploration.

HASSAN-MANGALORE M.G. LINE

2713. SHRI S. A. AGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Hassan-Mangalore Metre Gauge line has been held up ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of work carried on till now and when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An overall progress of 62% has been achieved upto end of October, 1967 on the Mangalore-Panambur link and 19.5% on the metre gauge main line from Hassan to Mangalore. While the Mangalore-Panambur link is expected to be ready by June, 1968, work on the MG line between Hassan-Mangalore is being phased to match with completion of the Mangalore Port Project.

CONVERSION OF M. G. TO B. G. FROM HOSPET TO MIRAJ AND BONDA TO MORMUGAO

2714. SHRI S. A. AGADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the transportation charges per metric tonne from Hospet to Madras via Guntakal, Broad Gauge and Hospet to Mormugao via Hubli and Londa for iron ore; and