

- (2) Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach of the level crossings to enable the train driver to whistle to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched to check whether the drivers are whistling from the whistling boards.
- (3) To educate the road users about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio and newspaper advertisements and street plays.
- (4) Joint ambush checks with civil authorities to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Railways Act, 1989.
- (5) Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licenses, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Express trains. A train travelling at 90 kmph covers 25 meters/second. Thus, although to the road user it appears to be 200 meters away, in terms of time, it is only 8 seconds away.
- (6) Involvement of village panchayats in their public awareness programme.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Technology Development Board**

2556. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have constituted a Technology Development Board in the country;
- (b) if so, the date on which the board was constituted and the annual estimated budget of the board;
- (c) whether the officers of this board undertook foreign tours to give thrust to the technological research work during the last few years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether there are any guidelines for the Board to spend the annual budget amount on various heads, and if so, the break up of amount incurred on the salaries, maintenance, tour expenses, research and technological development etc. during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Technology Development Board was constituted on 1st September, 1996. The Budget Estimate for 1997-98 is Rs. 70.00 Cr.

(c) and (d) The Board's functions include providing financial assistance to industrial concerns and other agencies for attestation development and commercialisation of indigenous technology or adaptation of imported technology for wider domestic application and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Board may sponsor foreign travel including of its officers in furtherance of its objectives. The Member-Secretary of the Board was included by the Government in a joint group with representatives of industry association and academic institutions to study the functioning of technology transfer centres in Germany and meeting with the officials of Science & Technology in the Department of Trade and Industry in London in July 1997. The expenditure incurred by the Government on the tour of the Member-Secretary was Rs. 1.70 lakhs. No other tour has been undertaken by any officer of the Board so far.

(e) The Board is administered under the provisions of the Technology Development Board Act, 1995 and the Technology Development Board Rules, 1996. The Government has released a sum of Rs. 29.97 crores during the year 1996-97, the break-up of which is as follows :

Grant	Rs. 29.00 crores
Salaries	Rs. 0.50 crore
Other administrative expenses	Rs. 0.47 crore

[English]

#### **Free Rail Travel Pass facility to Dronacharya Award Winners**

2557. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide free rail travel pass facility to the Dronacharya Award Winners on the line of facility provided to the Arjun Award Winners;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to resource constraints, Railways are not in a position to add any new category, including Dronacharya Award Winners, in the list of categories entitled to Complementary Card Pass.

[Translation]

### Survey for New Railway Line

2558. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1976 dated December 5, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the survey for Kalka-Parwanoo rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started;

(c) whether the modalities for funding of Una-Bhanupali-Beri via Bilaspur rail line has been worked out with Himachal Pradesh Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of the 5.3 km. long Kalka-Parwanoo new line will be Rs. 23.50 crores. The work has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 at cost of Rs. 23.00 crores. The work would be taken up only after the requisite approvals have been received.

(c) and (d) The matter has not yet been finalised. It is being coordinated by Himachal Pradesh Government. IRCON is participating from Railway's side. Once the modalities of funding are settled, and the requisite clearances have been obtained, the work can be taken up.

[English]

### Enhancement of Time Limit for Reservation

2559. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to enhance the time-limit for advance reservation upto two months from the present time-limit of one month to eliminate cornering of berths by the travel agents/touts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with references to a Public Notice issued by the Railways to various people have suggested the Ministry to enhance the said time-limit; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) In response to the advertisement issued by the Railways, a number of persons have suggested enhancement of advance reservation period. It has been agreed to in principal to increase the advance reservation period from 30 days to 60 days. The modalities for the same would be worked out in due course.

[Translation]

### Waiting List in M.P.

2560. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :  
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on February 28, 1997 District-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The required information is given in statement attached.

(b) The total waiting list as on 28.2.97 in Madhya Pradesh was 64012. About 47950 new telephone connections were provided since then till 30.6.97. The majority of the remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared by the end of March, 1998 subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

### Statement

#### District-Wise detail of MP tel-com circle

S.No.	District	W/L as on 28.2.97
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	302
2.	Bastar	1451
3.	Betul	1411
4.	Bhind	775
5.	Bhopal	9148
6.	Bilaspur	5555