

However, Metre Gauge services will continue to run in this section.

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

Official of AIR, New Delhi

2924. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed in regard to transfer of officials of AIR, New Delhi;

(b) the Number of officials working on the same station from 15-20 years, station-wise;

(c) the reasons for their long stay at the same station;

(d) the number of officials transferred within a short period, station-wise;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to adopt a comprehensive policy in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (h). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Passenger Train

2925. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand for introduction of passenger train from Asansol to Suri, Bolpur, Azimganj, Sahibganj and North-West States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the main hurdles which are being faced by the Government to introduce such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received including from Shri Haradhan Roy, MP.

(c) to (e). Asansol is linked with direct services to North-Western States viz. Rajasthan and Punjab. Introduction of additional trains from Asansol has been examined but not found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Post Office to Rural People

2926. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many villages of Gujarat are without postal facilities;

(b) if so, the details alongwith number thereof: district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide postal facilities in those villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of a total number of 18028 inhabited villages in Gujarat, 9949 villages do not have Post Offices.

(b) District-wise numbers are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual plan Schemes subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

STATEMENT

District-wise Information regarding Villages with Post Offices and without Post Offices as on 31-3-96.

In Gujarat

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Villages (Inhabited)	No. of Villages with P.O.	No. of Villages Without P.O.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	665	421	244
2.	Gandhinagar	73	59	14
3.	Mehsana	1145	296	849
4.	Banaskantha	1368	434	934
5.	Sabarkantha	1363	796	567
6.	Bharuch	1065	477	588
7.	Dang	309	56	253
8.	Kheda	960	568	392
9.	Panchmahals	1885	510	1375
10.	Surat	1196	553	643
11.	Vadodara	1648	609	1039
12.	Valsad	824	530	294
13.	Amreli	584	305	279
14.	Bhavnagar	865	425	440
15.	Jamnagar	707	342	365

1	2	3	4	5
16. Jugadh		1050	472	578
17. K' Bhuj		865	471	394
18. Rajkot		808	446	362
19. Surendranagar		648	309	339
Total		18028	8079	9949

[English]

Allotment of Accommodations

2927. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great corruption in Estate Office of Northern Railway as the Railway accommodation is being allotted to the staff on out of turn basis on flimsy grounds;

(b) if so whether it is also a fact that some officials of Northern Railway who are working in Railway Board have not yet vacated their accommodation in Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of quarters allotted to the staff on out of turn basis during 1995 and 1996 in Delhi; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To avoid inconvenience, officers on transfer from Northern Railway to Railway Board and vice versa, are being permitted to retain their accommodation on mutual exchange/pool adjustment basis. Mutual exchange/pool transfer of Central houses with Railway Board/Northern Railway houses are also being permitted at the same station by the Directorate of States, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, the nodal Ministry for such purposes.

(d) Number of quarters allotted to officers, both gazetted and non-gazetted, during the last two years is as under:-

	1995	1996
Officers	6	2
Staff	36	5
Total	42	7

(e) Pool balancing is done periodically by Railway Board and Northern Railway. Currently 12 Houses are in excess on Railway Board side. Steps are being taken to balance the same. Further construction of additional houses in Railway Board pool has been approved.

The numbers of quarters allotted on out of turn consideration is already very minimal and given in exceptional cases only.

Facilities to Railway Employees

2928. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railway employees are getting the same pay scales and other allowances as other Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railway employees are entitled to railway passes anywhere in India, many times a year;

(d) if so, whether the facilities of LTC is stopped for all other retired Central Government employees but it is continued for retired railway personnel, though in a smaller scale;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review this decision and issue concession like this to all retired Central Government employees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The pay scales allowed to railway employees are as per the recommendations made by the successive pay Commissions, as accepted by the Government. The allowances admissible to railway employees are also based on the orders issued by the nodal Ministries viz. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

(c) As per the convention existing in the railway systems the worldover, employees serving on Indian Railways are eligible for privilege passes. At present, they are eligible for :-

Category	No. of privilege passes	No. of privilege Ticket Orders
Group A & B	6 sets per year	4 sets per year
Group C & D	(a) 1 set per year upto the 5th year of railway service.	-do-
	(b) 3 sets per year after 5 years of railway service.	-do-

(d) The retired railway employees are entitled for post-retirement complimentary passes on the basis of length of service rendered by them to the railways.

(e) and (f). In so far as Central Government employees are concerned, travel concession facilities are at present available only to serving personnel for being availed during leave at specified scales. These