

Funds for Eklakhi-Balurghat Project

3356. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests received by Railway Board from the Members of Parliament for providing more funds for Eklakhi-Balurghat Project during the last three years;

(b) if so, the action taken on each of them till date; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) A number of requests have been received, including repetitive ones, during the last 3 years from various Members of Parliament. Very often, letters from Hon'ble Members of Parliament refer to several projects. Each request received from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament is dealt individually and due consideration is given to it. However, consolidated project-wise record of such representations is not maintained.

(b) Funds were progressively increased as under:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| (i) In 1997-1998 | — | Rs. 10 crs. |
| (ii) In 1998-1999 | — | Rs. 10 crs. |
| (iii) In 1999-2000 | — | Rs. 20 crs. |

(c) The requests have already been acceded to and outlay has been doubled in 1999-2000.

Poor Inquiry Service

3357. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of poor condition of Railway Inquiry Services over Phone No. 131 which takes sometimes hours before getting it for answer;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set-up more Railway Inquiry Services over phone at various Railway Stations in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Some instances of Enquiry Telephone remaining busy have come to notice. In Delhi area an average of around 78000 calls are handled daily with a total of 121 lines. Out of these, 67 lines are part of the automatic answering machines services. The efficiency of 131 is dependent upon the working of other Government Departments like Department of Telecom, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited etc. also. To further improve the telephone enquiry services on No. 131, a regular review of availability of lines, staff for manning etc. is carried out. Northern Railway has already set up railway enquiry services over telephone at all major passengers terminals of Delhi. In addition to this, the latest enquiry service over phone has been installed at Ghaziabad. In order to ensure functioning of enquiry system, it has been decided to set up a computerised National Train Enquiry System over Indian Railways.

Tampering of ACRs by Ex-Naval Chief

3358. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ex-chief tampered with ACRs" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry into the matter has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that ACRs are not tampered with at any stage and biased writing of confidential reports is checked?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The 'Pioneer' dated February 2, 1999 does not carry any news-item captioned "Ex-chief tampered with ACRs". However, Government have seen such a news-item in The 'Pioneer' dated February 23, 1999.