

[Translation]

AB Bhandari

**Construction of New Building for
Air Station, Jaipur**

3581. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Radio station of Jaipur is located at a suitable place and whether any scheme is under consideration for construction of a new building for this station; and

(b) the programme broadcast by the above station to create cultural awareness among people and the future plans in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Radio Station at Jaipur is located at a suitable place. There is no scheme for shifting it to a new location.

(b) AIR, Jaipur has been broadcasting various programmes viz. "Shakhshat", "Gorband", "Saheliyon Ki Bari", "Rajasthali" and "Kahksan", etc. to create cultural awareness among people. In these programme interviews with renowned personalities and artists, programmes based on local cultural activities, special musical and other programmes on the occasion of national and regional festivals, programmes aimed at national unity and communal harmony, song based programme and folk music programme are being broadcast. A project has been envisaged in association with 'Jawahar Kala Kendra', a premier Cultural Institute of the state, to record for archival purposes, various fast disappearing styles of folk music by artists from far flung areas.

[English]

Railways, Germany

**Loan sanctioned by German
Development Bank**

3582. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has failed to draw the 185 million DM loan sanctioned by the German Development Bank KFW over two years ago;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are paying Rs. 10 lakhs as commitment charges per month on loan; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to expedite the projects for which loan is sanctioned?

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) and (b) No, Sir. Under a Loan Agreement signed on 1st August, 1997, the Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFW), Germany has extended a loan of DM 185 million for the project of Modernization of Signalling between Delhi and Kanpur. Drawal of the loan is expected to commence after an agreement is reached between the Ministry of Railways and the KFW on the Final scope of the project including the technological options.

(c) As per Loan Agreement, commitment charge of 0.25% per annum on the undisbursed loan amount is payable. The Government have, however, not paid any commitment charges to KFW/Germany so far against this loan since the first payment of commitment charge shall be due together with the first interest payment.

(d) Government have proposed modifications in the scope of the project keeping in view the existing constraints and operating environment of the Indian Railways and are requesting KFW to agree to the same.

107 *rail gauge conversion*

**Gauge Conversion of Kollam-Sengottai,
Rail Line**

3583. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned for conversion of Kollam-Sengottai metre gauge line into broad gauge; and

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced and completed?

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) The estimated cost of Quilon-Shengottai-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudunagar project is Rs. 280 crores and an outlay of Rs. 10 crs. has been provided in Budget 1999-2000 for starting the work.

(b) Preliminary arrangements for starting the work are being made. No. target date of completion has been fixed. The work will be progressed and completed as per the priority fixed by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs subject to availability of resources in the coming years.