

*[English]***Prasar Bharati Corporation**

574. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to reconsider the structure, functioning and other features of the Prasar Bharati Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Appointment of Security Personnel through Contractors**

575. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the appointments of security personnel in the Ministries and limited companies are made through the contractors on a large scale;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to stop this procedure;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has already prohibited, by notification dated 9.12.1976, the employment of contract labour, among others, for watching of buildings owned or occupied by the establishments in respect of which the appropriate Government is the Central Government. The information about the contract workers employed for security purposes by the Ministries and limited companies, if any, is however, not maintained centrally.

(d) The provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the rules made thereunder are strictly enforced and action is taken as per the provisions of law in cases of violation.

*[English]***Monitoring of Expenditure on R and D**

576. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of expenditure incurred on R & D from the defence budget during 1996, 1997 and 1998;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring system on the expenditure and evaluating the technical and scientific researches made by DRDO during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The year wise expenditure incurred on R and D as percentage of Defence Budget are as follows:

Year(s)	Expenditure
1996-97	4.90
1997-98	5.42
1998-99	5.99

(b) and (c) Monitoring and review mechanisms have been instituted for assessment of expenditure incurred and evaluation of technical and scientific progress made in the various R and D projects. These mechanisms include R and D panels in various disciplines, multi-tier management boards and steering committees, having representations from user services, production and quality assurance agencies. In addition, each R and D project is reviewed twice each year by DRDO Council chaired by Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri.

**Shortage of Mining Inspectors**

577. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of Mining Inspectors;

(b) if so, the number of Mining Inspectors in the year 1980 and in the year 1998;

(c) whether due to shortage of Mining Inspectors, the Mines are not being inspected regularly which leads to fatal accidents;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has taken any decision to increase the strength of the Mining Inspectors in view of the growing number of Mines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of Mining Inspectors was 127 in the year 1980 whereas it was 167 in the year 1998.

(c) to (e) It is not correct to say that there has been increase in the number of fatal accidents due to shortage of Mining Inspectors. The need for increasing the number of Mining Inspectors has been stressed by various committees and the Court of Inquiries set up to enquire into the accidents in the mines. Accordingly, new Plan Schemes have been prepared for inclusion in the 9th Five Year Plan for increasing the strength of Mining Inspectors.

*[Translation]*

#### **Gauge Conversion of Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj Rail Line**

578. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be 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) to (c) The work has been completed and the line will be commissioned by 31.3.1999.

#### **Clearance for Dahod-Indore Railway Line**

579. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted some years back by the Government to lay railway line from Dahod (Gujarat) to Indore (Madhya Pradesh) via Jhabua/Dhaar;

(b) if so, whether after survey any action has been taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of new line between Dahod and Indore via Jhabua/Dhar has already been taken up under Godhra-Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi project.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **V.I.P. Lounge at Patna Airport**

580. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared any scheme for the construction of V.I.P. lounge at Patna Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India is expanding the existing terminal building in a phased manner at a cost of Rs. 10.30 crores. The work is likely to be completed by May, 1999.

*[English]*

#### **On-going Doordarshan Projects in Orissa**

581. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: