

- (iii) Grp 'C' posts are likely to be filled in 1997 after conduction of examination and result declared thereof.

#### Construction of New Railway Lines

4086. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered for construction of new railway lines between Chengalpattu Junction and the famous tourist resort of Mahabalipuram via Kalpakkam and Tirukkazhikunram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

#### Bonded Labours

4087. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has adopted an annual action Plan entitled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation";

(b) if so, the details of the action plan; and

(c) the progress made in identifying, releasing and rehabilitation of the child labour, under the above plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level the district to effectively handle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. By the end of the year 1995-96, a total of 76 child labour projects were sanctioned in 11 states for rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh children. As per the available information, so far 104,615 children have already been covered under different projects as per the details below.

States	No. of School opened	No. of children covered
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	610	36,249
Bihar	173	10,094

1	2	3
Gujarat	23	1,254
Karnataka	24	1,200
Madhya Pradesh	87	6,524
Maharashtra	24	1,200
Orissa	239	14,972
Rajasthan	54	2,700
Tamil Nadu	307	14,684
Uttar Pradesh	105	7,488
West Bengal	164	8,250
Total	1810	104,615

#### Doordarshan/Akashvani Programmes in Maharashtra

4088. DR. G.R. SARODE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total population covered by the T.V. transmitter in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Doordarshan/Akashvani programmes are not received in large parts of the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to install more HPT/LPT in the State during the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan Period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Whereas TV service is available in the entire State of Maharashtra through Satellite using suitable dish antenna, 85.2% population and 74.1% of area of the State are covered terrestrially by TV Transmitters. Existing coverage in respect of All India Radio in Maharashtra is 99% by areas and population. Barring few pockets the entire State is covered by one or more BW/FM Transmitters. These pockets, however, are expected to be covered on SW Band.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The 9th Five Year Plan is still under formulation and it will not be possible to give details at this stage. However, the details of TV projects, location-wise presently under implementation in Maharashtra is given in the enclosed Statement.

## STATEMENT

TV Projects (As on 30.11.96)

State	Under Implementation
Maharashtra	PPC
	Mumbai (Exp.)
	Nagpur (Aug.)
	Pune
	LPT
	Shirpur
	Navapur
	Mangaon
	Khopoli
	Mahad
	Umarkhed
	Satana
	Sironcha
	Chandur
	Aheri
Chikoli	
Ambet	
VLPT	
Malwan	
Malkapur	
Bhokar	
Badlapur	

## Indian Post Office Act, 1898

4089. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the present Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has become obsolete in view of the change in the present modern day system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have set up any committee to examine the whole issue and suggest ways and means for amending the present status;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has stood the test of time but in view of the changing socio-economic scenario worldwide, some of its provisions need to be amended.

(b) A Committee was set up by the Government to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(c) The main recommendations of the Act Review Committee are :

(i) Partial relinquishment of the exclusive privilege of the Central Government to carry letters and allowing private courier to carry letters on obtaining licence under certain given terms and conditions;

(ii) Assumption of more liability by the Postal Department for operation failures;

(iii) Incorporation of suitable, enabling provisions for the introduction of new services; and

(iv) Modifications of the regulations relating to treatment of undeliverable postal articles.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

## Revenue Earned by Railways

4090. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 162 crores less revenue has been earned by the Railways under the head rail freight during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if not, the facts thereof.

(c) whether in the absence of any concrete steps to improve the efficiency of railways the said amount is likely to increase during the next half of the current financial year;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the administration and working of the railways; and

(e) the target fixed for earning freight tariff for the financial year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No Sir, the actual shortfall in freight revenue during the first half of the current financial year is Rs. 129.44 crores. This shortfall is with reference to the proportionate target upto September, 1996.

(c) and (d). Even though target for quantum of traffic has been achieved, the earnings have fallen short of the target due to change in traffic mix and steps have been taken to carry more high profit yielding commodities.

(e) The target fixed for earning freight traffic for the financial year 1996-97 is Rs. 16975.00 crores.