

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :

- (a) Vacancies - 60
No. of contract doctors - 47
(b) No Sir. No such incident has come to notice.
(c) Does not arise.
(d) Does not arise.

Amount Provided in Budget

4096. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided in the current year's Budget (zone-wise):

(b) whether the amount provided in the Budget 1996-97 for North East Frontier Railway sector is the minimum in comparison to other Railway zones:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor:

(d) the criteria being adopted and basis on which the Budgetary provisions are made while preparing the Budget: and

(e) the estimated amount in the Budget of Railways for 1997-98 zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Budgetary provisions to the zonal Railways are made keeping in view the number of works in progress, their priority and proposed new works.

(e) The Annual Plan for 1997-98 is yet to be finalised.

STATEMENT

(a) The Net outlays provided to different zonal Railway during 1996-97 is as follows :

(In thousands of rupees)

Railway	Plan Outlay
Central	481.02.49
Eastern	285.04.00
Northern	473.13.33
North Eastern	186.85.22
Northeast Frontier	256.58.93
Southern	461.41.39
South Central	305.50.05
South Eastern	505.16.37
Western	388.78.61

[Translation]

Conversion of Rail Lines

4097. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a proposal for conversion of Kathgodam-Bareilly-Mathura-Agra and Bareilly-Pilibhit rail lines: and

(b) if so, the time by which the said conversion work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the IXth Plan.

[English]

ESI Hospital in Punjab

4098. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ESI dispensaries functioning in Punjab district-wise:

(b) the number of persons benefited therefrom:

(c) the details of the schemes formulated to upgrade and modernise these dispensaries;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up more ESI dispensaries in Punjab: and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The requisite information about number of ESI dispensaries in Punjab is given in the Statement attached. There are 14,77,300 beneficiaries eligible for ESI medical care from these dispensaries.

(c) to (e). The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Act in the State vests in the Government of Punjab. The ESI Corporation has fixed norms for staffing of dispensaries, provision of equipments, medicines etc. The Corporation meets 7/8th of the expenditure incurred on running of ESI medicals care in the State. Upgradation and modernisation of dispensaries, according to felt needs, is a continuous process. There is at present no proposal to open more ESI dispensaries in Punjab.

STATEMENT

District-wise Number of Dispensaries in Punjab

District	No. of Dispensaries
1	2
Ludhiana	13
Ropar	3

1	2
Patiala	7
Jalandhar	5
Amritsar	5
Kapurthala	6
Hoshiarpur	8
Gurdaspur	4
Abohar	1
Sangrur	4
Fathegarh Sahib	3
Bhatinda	3
Barnala	2
Faridkot	4
Mansa	1
Moga	1
Total :	70

Survey of Railway Line

4099. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for Kuttipuram to Gurusvayoor railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the major findings of the survey including the estimated cost and the total distance of the route;

(c) whether any change of route has been contemplated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The results of the survey are under finalisation in consultation with the Railway. The details would be available once the alignment is finalised.

[Translation]

Satellite Phone Service

4100. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start Satellite telephone service in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) INSAT Satellite System is already being used as a long distance media to provide telephone service in the country.

(b) Satellite media is being used to provide long distance media to State Headquarters/Sub-Divisional Head Quarters/Tehsils/Tourist Centres/Pilgrimage places etc. in the country. This is also being used to provide transportable/mobile phone service.

(c) The service has already started.

[English]

Mining Operation

4101. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that NMDC Limited has planned out a detailed programme to the mining operation and to privatise its own mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Mine-Accidents

4102. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mine-accidents took place during the last two years, district-wise, and mine-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in mine-accidents; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to stop the mine-accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). There is fluctuating trend in mine-accidents. Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as-

(i) Conference on safety in mines.