

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them perfect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 21 exchanges in Saharsa District and 14 exchanges in Supaul District. All of them are electronic exchanges. These are working satisfactorily.

(b) A number of these exchanges are connected to their parent exchanges on open wire lines, which are prone to thefts and faults. It is planned to replace the open wire lines, by reliable transmission media progressively during next two years to improve the performance of Telecommunication services in the area.

Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar-Tarapur Lines

4116. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long standing demand from various organisation and Chambers of Commerce and Industries for Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar-Tarapur broad gauge railway lines;

(b) whether a number of representation have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) the details of Engineering and traffic survey conducted on the above broad gauge; and

(e) the time by which the construction work on above broad gauge lines are likely to start?

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

(c) Following Hon'ble MPs and others have forwarded representations in this regard :

- (i) Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP.
- (ii) Shri Sanat Mehta, MP.
- (iii) Shrimati Urmilaben Patel, MP.
- (iv) Shri Dileep Sanghani, MP.
- (v) Shri Rajendrasinh Rana, MP.
- (vi) Shri Gordhanbhai Javia, MP.
- (vii) Shri Narottambhai Patel, MLA/Gujarat.
- (viii) Shri Jindra Upadyay, Member/State Parliamentary Board/Gujarat
- (ix) Federation of Kutch Saurashtra Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- (x) Amreli Chambers of Commerce.

(d) and (e). The work of gauge conversion between Surendranagar and Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav has already been included

in the supplementary Budget 1996-97 and would be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

There is, however, no proposal for construction of a new line from Bhavnagar to Tarapore at present

[Translation]

Stoppage of Express Trains at Bina Junction

4117. SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage to Goa Express, Kerala Express, Pushpak Express and Superfast Shatabdi Express at Bina Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the development of Bina Junction?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible.

(d) Development of stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by traffic needs. Amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled has already been provided at Bina station. Work of extension of platforms 3/4 has been taken up at Bina station.

[English]

Indian News Casters Association

4118. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian News Casters Association has been agitating to Press for their demands;

(b) if so, the details of the demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Small Mine Owners

4119. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of small mine owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether any representation has been given by Rajasthan Khanij Udyog Mahasangh in this regard.

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage small mine owners; and

(f) the achievements made regarding discovery and mining of minerals in the mineral rich Arawali ranges in Rajasthan alongwith the role of Indian Bureau of Mines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the problems emerged from discussions held with the small mine owners by Indian Bureau of Mines are . Shortage of qualified surveyors and mining engineers; an elaborate format for the preparation of mining plans; difficulties in carrying out mining operations when mine owners do not have surface rights alongwith mineral right; etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Amendments have been made in Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 simplifying the earlier Forms and Notices, and even reducing their frequency of submission. Recently, a special Cell has been formed in Indian Bureau of Mines for helping the small mine owners. The charges for Technical Consultancy, Chemical Analysis and Ore Dressing Investigations by Indian Bureau of Mines are concessional for small mines. The State Government in the year 1994 amended the Rajasthan Mines Mineral Concession Rules, 1986 to increase minimum size of lease area from 50Mx50M. to one hectare. The State Govt. has also offered to bear 50% cost of construction of roads, schools, hospitals and other labour welfare amenities provided 50% of the cost is borne by the lessees. The State Govt. has also undertaken construction of roads at its own cost in the case of cluster of small mines.

(f) A large number of potential mineral deposits have been discovered and investigated in the Aravali range, many of which have gone into production. The important mineral among non-metallic minerals are rock phosphate deposits of Udaipur district. Barytes deposits, Fluorite deposits of Rahila and Pandokipal districts, Dungarpur, Karara in Jalore district, marble and cement grade limestone deposits of Chittor, Bundi, Banswara, Sawai Madhopur, Pali and Udaipur districts. Among metallic minerals state department has located Deri Poly metallic deposits (Cu, Pb, Zn) and basemetal deposits at Basantgarh, Pipela areas all in Sirohi district, Agucha Zinc-Lead deposit in Bhilwara district, Pando Ki Pal copper deposit in Dungarpur district and Anjani

basemetal deposit in Udaipur district. Indian Bureau of Mines does not take up work relating to mineral exploration.

National Vocational Training System

4120. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the German Government has offered any assistance for revamping the National Vocational Training system and major areas of training;

(b) if so, the details and terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the areas in which the financial assistance is proposed to be utilised; and

(d) the fields for which collaboration has been made/ proposed to be made for technical co-operation with Germany?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The German Government is considering the proposal to provide technical cooperation to DGE and T in the Ministry of Labour in the following areas :

(i) Restructuring of the National Vocational Training System including (a) planning for National Trade Testing and Certification Authority, (b) planning for a nodal institute for Instructors' Training;

(ii) Development of a nodal institute for Research, Executive Staff Training, Central Information and Documentation Services by restructuring the existing functions of the Central Staff Training and Research Institute (CSTARI), Calcutta;

(iii) Development of a nodal institute for Curriculum, Media and Trade Testing by restructuring the existing functions of the Central Instructional Media Institute (CIMI), Chennai.

The above proposals are in the process of negotiations. However, under the existing Development Co-operation with Germany in the field of vocational training, the German Government is providing assistance to CIMI, Chennai for the development of instructional media packages for the use of trainees and trainers under Craftsman Training and Apprenticeship Training Schemes.

Doubling and Electrification of Railway Tracks

4121. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had conducted the techno-economical survey for doubling and electrification programme on the Andal-Sainthia section of Eastern Railway;