

[English]

Radio Telephone Network

4126. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the non-functioning of Radio Telephone Network in the Entire Rural area of Betul district in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so the steps taken by the Government to revive the system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Out of 21 Base stations of the Radio Telephone network of Betul, only three are non-functional. In all, 165 village telephones (VLTs) out of 336 are faulty. Action is being taken on priority to make all Base Stations and VPTs fully functional by 31st Jan., 97.

[Translation]

TV Transmitter, Rajasthan

4127. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) since when the TV transformer is functioning in Bundi, Rajasthan alongwith its installed capacity;

(b) the total Megawatt of power utilised by the transformer during the last three months;

(c) whether due to non-operation of the transformer at its full capacity the T.V. sets of common man get burned and also the reception is of poor quality; and

(d) the reasons for running the transformer below the installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 100 W Lower Power TV transmitter (LPT) was commissioned at Bundi on 8.9.1989 which was subsequently replaced by a 10 KW High Power TV transmitter (HPT) w.e.f. 27.6.1993.

(b) The total power utilised by the HPT during the last three months is 91.146 MW.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Conference of General Managers

4128. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-day conference of General Managers of all Railway Zones, production units

and Calcutta Metro was held in Delhi in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the points discussed in the conference; and

(c) the decisions taken therein?

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

(b) and (c). Performance of various Zonal Railways including Metro Calcutta and the Production Units were discussed and guidelines given towards achieving the targets set for earnings, freight loading and production of coaches and locomotives in the Railway Production Units. During the Conference along with other issues, the Safety and Punctuality performance of the Railways were also reviewed and guidelines given for necessary corrective action wherever needed.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Exchanges

4129. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of computerised exchanges in the country;

(b) whether all the telephone exchanges in the country are proposed to be computerised by 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when they are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 20715 computer controlled exchanges in the country as on 31.3.96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to convert all the electromechanical exchanges into computer controlled exchanges during 9th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Grievances of Travelling Passengers

4130. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any unit is working under Zonal Railways as well as in the Ministry to take note of grievances of travelling public as and when these are brought to notice through media;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith its functions;

(c) whether these units have taken note to grievances of travelling public brought to notice through Media in November, 1996;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In each Zonal Railway and in the Ministry, there is a full-fledged Public Relations Office. Complaints received through Media are put up to the Railway Board/General Manager/Addl. General Manager/Principal Head of Department who further send them to the concerned officers/Divisions for taking necessary action. Special Monitoring Cells have been set up to monitor grievances related to punctuality, passenger amenities and catering.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Grievances brought to the notice through the media are put up by the Public Relations Office to the concerned authorities as brought out above. Action is taken by the concerned departments on grievances pertaining to their area. The Public Grievances Cell monitors grievances received from the public.

[Translation]

Shramshakti and Kurla-Varanasi Express

4131. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shramshakti and the Kurla-Varanasi Express cease to operate from Barauni and no other train has been provided for Mumbai in lieu of the above train, as a result of which the passengers of that area are facing a lot of difficulties; and

(b) if so, the time by which the train facility will be provided from Barauni to Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As part of reorganisation and provision of additional train services from Muzaffarpur/Patna to Mumbai, daily services were provided from Muzaffarpur and Patna to Kurla in lieu of existing services between Muzaffarpur and Kurla via Barauni.

(b) Barauni is already linked to Mumbai by 5645/5646 Guwahati-Dadar biweekly Express and to Madras by 5011A/5012A weekly express. There is no proposal at present to introduce direct train between Barauni and Ahmedabad.

Agreement for Construction of Railway Line by SAIL

4132. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has entered into any agreement on cost sharing

basis in the construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur railway line; 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 reply to part (a).

[English]

Proposal for International Airport in Karnataka

4133. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of international Airports in the country; and

(b) the names of domestic and international Airports proposed to be established in the Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are five international airports in the country, namely, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Calcutta; Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi; Chennai International Airport, Chennai; Mumbai International Airport, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Thiruvananthapuram.

(b) The Govt. proposes to upgrade the airstrip at Hassan for operation of 50 seater aircraft for domestic operations. The Govt. has also given its 'No Objection' to Govt. of Karnataka to develop an airport of international standard at Devanahalli near Bangalore with private participation.

Air Service to North-East

4134. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to provide better air services to North-East region, the Government have decided to set up a Committee of MPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objects of the Committee;

(d) whether the Committee has since been set up;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to submit its report;

(f) whether private airlines have also been asked to provide better air services in North-East region; and

(g) the details thereof?