

prevalent in the market. Railways are also taking necessary steps to augment their revenue and contain operating expenses in order to increase the internal generation of resources and keep market borrowings to the minimum. Indian Railways is also seeking greater budgetary support from the Central Government.

Steam Engines

2535. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of steam engines in the country;
- (b) the time by which these steam engines are likely to be replaced by diesel and electric engines; and
- (c) the manner in which the steam engines are to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) As on 1.4. 1997, there were 75 steam locos working on Indian Railways.

(b) Steam locos are expected to be replaced by 2000 AD depending upon the availability of diesel/electric locos on Indian Railways except in some sections of tourist importance where such locos will be an attraction.

(c) Steam locos are disposed of by auction as scrap by the Railways. However, some locos are being preserved in the museums/important places.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Rajasthan

2536. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the faults in telephone exchanges situated in Churu and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the telephone services in these districts;

(c) whether any scheme to expand and modernise these telephone exchanges and to link more and more telephone exchanges with STD service is under consideration of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Faults in telephone exchanges are generally attended in time. But some times, due to thefts of Open Wire lines, the working of telephone exchanges get affected.

(b) Details are given in Statement-I attached

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per Statement II (A,B,C)

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

Statement - I

Steps taken to improve telephone services in Churu and Nagaur districts in Rajasthan

1. Regular monitoring in rural and far flung exchanges is being done.
2. Two sub-divisions at Sadulpur and Sardarshahar in Churu Distt. have been recently opened.
3. Group dialing between Sujangarh (Churu) and Ladnu (Nagaur) exchange have been provided recently.
4. Connectivity between exchanges is being progressively converted to reliable media.
5. 8 channel open wire carrier system between Bidasar-Sujangarh and 3 channel system between Bimsar-Sujangarh have been provided in May, 1997 and June, 1997 respectively, which have improved the connectivity of these exchanges.
6. In Nagaur Distt. Makrana has been brought on 34 MR OFC media this year and OFC laying and dropping work is in progress for Parbatsar, Kuchaman city and Merla city.

Statement - II (A)

Tentative Expansion and Modernisation Schemes for the year 1997-98

S.No.	Name of Scheme	Churu Distt.	Nagaur Distt.
1	2	3	4
1.	DELs to be added	2800 lines	5300 lines.
2.	Net capacity to be added	3336 lines	5936 lines.

1	2	3	4
3.	New Telephone exchanges opening.	4	2
4.	TAX Expansion	1 K CLT	—
5.	STD provisioning	10 Stations	15 Stations
6.	Reliable media. (M/W OFC)	3 Schemes	3 Schemes.

Statement II (B)

<i>Development Programme 1997-98 for SSA Nagaur</i>		1	2
Name of Exch.	Net Addition (Lines)		
1	2		
** SSA Nagaur			
Alai	152	Khiyala	56
Basni (Nagaur)	104	Khunkhuna	64
Bori Khurd	96	Kuchaman city	1000
Besroli	64	Kuchera	96
Bhadwasi	56	Kukanwali	64
Bidiyad	152	Loonwa	72
Daulatpura	80	Makrana	1400
Deedwana	552	Manana	72
Deh	56	Manglana	88
Dhankoli	64	Maroth	72
Dugastau	56	Maulasar	80
Gudha Salt	72	Merta City	552
Harsor	64	Mithari (KCR)	64
Idwa	64	Mithari (LDN)	32
Jasnagar	56	Nuwa	72
Jawaja	56	Parbatsar	152
Jayal	88	Roli	56
Jodhiyasi	56	Sribalaji	56
		** Sub Total **	5936
		*** Total ***	5936

Statement - II (C)*Development Programme 1997-98 for SSA Churu*

Name of Exch.	Net Addition (Lines)
**SSA Churu	
Chhapar	200
Ghangoo	56
Lohahalt	64
Ratan Nagar	232
Ratangarh	424
Salasar	152
Sandwa	56
Sardarshahar	800
Sidhmukh	56
Sridungargarh	400
Sudsar	96
Sujangarh	800
Sub Total	3336
Total	3336

*[Translation]***Direct Train Services**

2537. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether direct train services are not available for Gandhi Nagar, Surat, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Rajkot etc. from Jabalpur in Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start direct train services for the said places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) At present, Surat-Varanasi Tapti-Ganga Express (5 days in a week) is available between Jabalpur and Surat. A weekly train is also being introduced between Surat and Patna serving Jabalpur during August '97.

Introduction of trains between Jabalpur and Gandhinagar/Vadodara/Bhavnagar/Rajkot etc. are not feasible due to operational and resource constraints and also gauge variation.

*[English]***Recognition of Medical Certificates**

2538. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the medical certificates issued by the Ayurvedic/Unani practitioners are not recognised by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Railway has recognised allopathic system of medicine.

Railway employees are required to be issued the medical certificates by the Railway doctors in case of their sickness.

Certificates issued by non-Railway doctors, regardless of the system of medicine they practice are treated as private medical certificates.

Anugul-Dubri New Railway Line

2539. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to construct a Railway line between Anugul and Dubri via Budha Park, Kamakshya Nagar and Sukinda in East Coast zone, Orissa has been cleared;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the allocation made for that line so far;

(d) the progress made in the construction of Anugul-Sambalpur railway line; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the construction work and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 245.58 crores.

(c) The work is included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 with a token outlay of Rs. 10 lakhs.

(d) 70%

(e) Full requirement of funds and materials have been provided and the work is being progressed on a war footing. The present target for completion of this line is March, 1998.