

1	2	3	4
15.	Rajasthan	0.0099	0.99
16.	Tamilnadu (f)	0.0168	1.68
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0.0052	0.52
18.	West Bengal (g)	0.0081	0.81
19.	Delhi	0.0994	9.94
	All India	0.0128	1.28

(a) Including Daman, Diu, Dadar and Nagar Haveli.

(b) Including Lakshadweep (UT).

(c) Including Goa and Mumbai.

(d) Including Arunachal Pradesh Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

(e) Including Chandigarh.

(f) Including Chennai and Pondicherry (UT).

(g) Including Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Calcutta.

Note : For computing the per capita telephone connection, the population projection as on 1.3.96 from Registrar General of India has been taken.

[English]

#### Travel Agents

4008. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Government officials are purchasing air tickets for touring within the country from the travel agents;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter to save the public fund going into the hands of travelling agents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) As per the existing instructions Government officials on official tour are required to purchase tickets directly from Air India or Indian Airlines. In case, due to some unavoidable reasons, the help of a travel agency is required, the services of public sector travel agencies namely M/s. Ashok Travels and Balmer Lawrie are to be availed of. Cases where there are any specific difficulties in following these procedures are required to be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for granting relaxation on the merits of each case.

#### Inconvenience to Road Passengers

4009. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 8

Railway gates between Calicut and Cannanore in Kerala create bottleneck on the road transport that leads to great inconvenience to road passengers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to build overbridges at these Railway gates;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal to put up Railway gates at these points; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The State Government of Kerala was advised to sponsor Road Over/Under Bridges at these locations which are within the criteria, for inclusion in Railway Works Programme. No such proposal has yet been received from the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Opening of Junior College at Bitragunta

4010. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bitragunta is a railway town in Vijaywada of South Central Railway and a large number of railway workers are living in Bitragunta and more than 2000 school going children are there;

(b) if so, whether the children of the railway employees are experiencing difficulty in going to Nellore and Kavali for school and college studies;

(c) if so, whether there is a long pending demand for sanction of a junior college at Bitragunta for the benefit of the railway employees' children;

(d) if so, whether he has been urged to consider the demand of railway employees and sanction a junior college at Bitragunta; and

(e) if so, whether the Government have considered the demand and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Only 1651 Railway employees are posted at Bitragunta where two Railway High Schools are situated with a total strength of 1003 students.

(b) Approximately only 50 wards of Railway employees are going to Nellore and Kavali for higher studies.

(c) At present there is no demand from the Railway employees for setting up of a Junior College at Bitragunta.

(d) and (e) A demand was raised by the Hon'ble MP in the Consultative Committee of MPs for the Ministry

of Railways for sanction of a Railway Junior College at Bitragunta. The demand was duly considered but was not found feasible of acceptance particularly when the Railway population at Bitragunta has come down due to closure of Steam Loco Shed.

#### Konkan Railway Projects

4011. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :  
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount likely to be spent on the on-going work on Konkan Railway Project alongwith the comparison between original and revised estimates;

(b) the reasons for delay in execution of work and escalation of cost;

(c) the time by which above project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have revised its estimates keeping in view the profitability of the Konkan Railway;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of proposed train services through Konkan Railway;

(g) the details of amount contributed by the Government of Kerala for the construction of Konkan Railway;

(h) whether the Government have received complaints of serious irregularities in implementation of the above project; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) It is expected that the amount of Rs. 3026 crore will be spent upto March 1997 as against the current project cost of Rs. 3100 crore. Originally, the project was estimated to cost Rs. 1043 crore at 1989-90 price level.

(b) the main reasons for delay are acute shortage of funds and adverse geological conditions in softsoil tunnels in Goa and Karnataka area.

The reasons for escalation in cost are as follows :-

(i) Inflation due to passage of time.

(ii) Additional expenditure required due to increased scope of work in tunnels, protection works and implementation of recommendations of Oza Committee in Goa Sector of the project.

(iii) Adoption of current prevailing standards of construction as compared to original provision.

(iv) Additional financing costs due to delay in completion of the project.

(c) Construction of the project is likely to be completed by 30.06.97.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Revision of the estimates has been done keeping in view of the profitability of the Konkan Railway. The cash flow indicates that the project remains profitable even after this revision, mainly because the projected increase in quantum of traffic as well as fare increases as applicable to Indian Railways.

(f) Train services through Konkan Railway will be provided in phases in keeping with the improvement in infrastructural facilities including line capacity, terminal development works and availability of higher speeds. The train services proposed to be provided included :-

1. Passenger shuttles on Ratnagiri-Madgaon and Madgaon-Mangalore sectors.
2. Extension of Kurla-Sawantwadi Express upto Madgaon.
3. Diversion of 6635/6636 Kurla-Mangalore/ Cochin Netravati Express.
4. Diversion of 2431/2432 Nizamuddin Trivandrum Rajdhani Express.
5. Diversion of 2617/2618 Nizamuddin Mangalore Mangala Express with extension upto Ernakulam.

After completion of line capacity works on Diva-Panvel and other adjoining sections, it is proposed to divert 6335/6336 Gandhidham-Nagercoil (weekly), 6337/6338 Rajkot-Cochin (weekly) and 6333/6334 Rajkot-Trivandrum (weekly) Express.

(g) The Government of Kerala has fully contributed the equity contribution of Rs. 36 crore.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

#### Post Offices in Bihar

4012. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened and proposed to be opened in Bihar, particularly in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts alongwith their locations during the last three years; and

(b) the amount earmarked therefor during 1994-95, 1995-96 and for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 900 EDBOs and 6 DSOs have been opened so far in Bihar during 1993-94, 1994-95