

last two years were as under :

Year	Train No.	Daily Average		
		Wait listed	Passengers	SL
		2AC	FC/3AC	
1995	5621 N.E. Express	6	4	56
	5622 N.E. Express	9	5	24
	4055 Brahmaputra Mail	3	4	35
	4056 Brahmaputra Mail	2	1	145
1996	5621 N.E. Express	8	5	60
	5622 N.E. Express	3	1	21
	4055 Brahmaputra Mail	4	3	46
	4056 Brahmaputra Mail	5	5	149

(c) A weekly Rajdhani Express was introduced between New Delhi and Guwahati in July'94 which has been made tri-weekly from 26.1.96.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Load of the existing services is augmented as and when found feasible to clear the extra rush.

Programme Staff of Doordarshan and AIR

4039. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(A) whether the programme staff of All India Radio and Doordarshan undertook fast in December, 1996 and submitted a charter of demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of their demands;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether some of the demands have been considered so far; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Programme Staff Association of AIR and Doordarshan undertook indefinite hunger strike with effect from 5.12.1996. The hunger strike was later withdrawn.

(c) The demands pertain to various administrative matters like revision of pay, filling up of vacant posts, creation of posts, etc.

(d) and (e) The Government have already initiated necessary action in this regard.

(f) Does not arise.

Construction of Subway at Old Faridabad Railway Station

4040. CHAUDHARY RAMACHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware the long pending demand for the construction of one subway near Cabin No. 37 of old Faridabad (Haryana) railway station;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to construct subway at above place; and

(c) the time by which the above subway is likely to be constructed?

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

(b) No firm proposal with proposed location, site plan and other relevant details has been received from the appropriate State Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

Optic Fibre Lines

4041. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to enter into the stage of the 'state-of-the-art' telecommunications;

(b) whether it is possible to by pass the copper-wire era and avail of the facilities offered by the wireless and satellite technologies;

(c) if so, the progress made in this direction;

(d) the expenditure has been incurred during the last three years on laying the optic-fibre lines; and

(e) whether it is justified in the context of the satellite technology?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The following steps are being taken :-

(1) Digitalisation of the Network.

(2) Introduction of advanced technology equipment in transmission like optical fibre and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

(3) Advanced technology in subscriber access like wireless in local access, fibre in local loop.

(4) Introduction of cellular mobile services, V-SAT networks, Mobile Satellite services.

(b) The wireless and satellite technologies compliment and supplement the copper wire technology.

(c) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) is working on Wireless Local Loop (WLL) and also on Mobile Satellite Service (MSS). Both of these will be