

**Construction of New Railway Line between
Dahanu Road and Nasik Road**

3034. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands for construction of new Railway line between Dahanu Road station and Nasik Road station;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Service of Calcutta Telephones

3035. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone subscribers of Chetla & Mahesh Dutt Lane areas under "479" exchange of Calcutta telephones are not getting proper service of their telephones due to overhead lines through poles or electric poles;

(b) whether some telephone lines in the above areas have been drawn through the existing electric poles confronting the subscribers to various risks;

(c) whether complaints of disruption of services have been on the rise from the subscribers;

(d) whether the Government propose to direct the authorities to take immediate action in the matter; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some telephone lines have been supported on electric poles as the footpaths in the area are very narrow and it is difficult to erect new poles or lay underground cables there. Many a times the local residents also object to the digging of the lance for laying cables or for planting poles. However, the telephone wires which are duly insulated are drawn at a safe margin of distance from electric lines and with proper safety protections. Thus avoiding any risk to the users.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) For upgrading the network in the area a total of 1500 conductor Kilometer (CKM) cables have already been laid and it is planned to further lay 2000 CKM cables in the near future, to minimise overhead telephone lines in the area.

**Medical Facilities at Howrah and Sealdah
Railway Stations**

3036. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to improve medical facilities at Howrah and Sealdah Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Adequate provision exists on all Railway Stations to provide first aid medical facilities. For this purpose first aid boxes with prescribed medicines and dressing materials and a stretcher have been provided with station masters. Apart from this a list of doctors and Hospitals both Railway and Non-Railway situated near the station along with their telephone numbers and addresses is available with the Station Masters who can requisition their services in emergency.

Mobile Licence to Andhra Pradesh

3037. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the new item captioned "Bell Canada may turn deaf ear to Andhra Pradesh" appearing in the '*Economic Times*' dated February 15, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined its contents;

(c) whether Department of Telecommunication has not given any extension of the order notification date;

(d) if so, the main reasons for not granting the extension after January 29, 1997; and

(e) the time by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The extension was not granted due to the following reasons:

- (1) The tariff for fixed to Mobile calls in Telecom Circles was fixed on 29.1.97 after detailed examination of all the issues involved.
- (2) This tariff was fixed for the first time and was a necessity for making the service available. Any extension would have resulted in postponement of the service.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Computerised Passenger Reservation Terminals

3038. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether capitals of all the N.E. States have been provided with computer reservation system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all these centres are linked up with all major cities of the country for getting return reservation facilities;

(d) whether there is any plan to provide computer reservation system in some more places of North-East States;

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(f) the time by which the above system is likely to be provided; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at five capitals in N.E. Region viz. Guwahati, Gangtok, Shillong, Imphal and Agartala.

Provision of these facilities has been approved for Itanagar, Kohima and Aizawl and these will become operational very shortly.

(c) Bookings for onward and return Journey reservations can be made from these locations only for those trains originating from the stations linked to the main reservation System at Calcutta.

The facility of onward and return journey reservations from stations linked to the other four reservation Systems can become available at all reservation offices, including these locations only when networking of the five reservation Systems is established. For this purpose, networking software is in the development and testing phase.

(d) to (g) Besides the State Capitals, these facilities are also available at Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Silchar in Assam and at Dimapur in Nagaland. Reservation workload at other places is lesser than the criterion of reservation related transactions per day and does not presently justify the provision of such facilities. Introduction of computerised reservation at the other stations will be considered as and when the reservation workload increases adequately

Post Offices in West Bengal

3039. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices to be opened in West Bengal during the 1997-98;

(b) names of those places selected therefor; and

(c) the time by which post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Targets for opening of Post Offices are allocated Postal Circle-wise under Annual Plans on year to year basis. These have not yet been finalised.

Recommendations of Expert Group on Royalty on Minerals

3040. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an expert group on royalty on minerals other than coal has suggested significant hikes in royalties;

(b) if so, the hike in various types of minerals recommended by this group; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing). The Study Group submitted its report in Nov. 1995. Report of the Study Group has been examined and the revision of royalty rates is under consideration of the Government.

Facilities in Mines Sector

3041. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a lack of infrastructure facilities in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;