

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Government had not agreed to set up a Zonal Manager's Office at Nainpur. However earlier in 1984, it had planned to set up a Divisional Railway Manager's Office at Nainpur primarily for the Narrow Gauge sections in the area.

(b) and (c) In view of the Project Unigauge, construction of Konkan Railway and increase/change in traffic pattern the Government has decided to set up six new Zones at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Bangalore, Jaipur and Jabalpur and 8 new Divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Pune, Singrauli, Rangiya, Raipur, Guntur and Ranchi.

Discarded Rail Engines

5201. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rail Engines/Coaches lying discarded due to accidents or other reasons alongwith the railway tracks;

(b) whether these engines or coaches are being stolen in pieces by the Kabadies with the connivance of Railway officers/employees;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to protect such unguarded Rail Engines/Coaches; and

(d) the total value of such unguarded Rail Engines/Coaches lying at different places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Two Diesel Locos and 106 Coaches are lying discarded due to accidents or other reasons alongwith the Railway Track.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Estimated scrap value of the above discarded Locos and Coaches on Indian Railways is approximately Rs. 1.15 crores. This stock is under process of disposal at site itself.

[English]

Establishment of Steel Plants

5202. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to consider the pending proposals with regard to the establishment of steel plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of steel plants expected to come up in that State during Ninth Plan; and

(c) the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, iron and steel industry has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. In terms of this policy, approval of the Union Government for industrial license is required only if the project is proposed to be located in restricted locations. No proposal is pending at present with the Union Government for the grant of industrial license for establishment of steel plants in Orissa.

According to State Government of Orissa, they have received fifteen proposals for setting up of iron and steel projects in the State of Orissa. Further, according to information available from the All India Financial Institutions, three plants viz. Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Mid-East Integrated Steel Ltd. (Phase-I) and Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (Phase-I) have been approved by them and are expected to be commissioned during IXth Five Year Plan.

Technical Staff in Doordarshan/AIR Kendras

5203. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has reviewed the staff position in respect of various Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio Stations;

(b) if so, whether there is enormous shortage of technical and operating staff in various Doordarshan and Akashvani Kendras; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken for recruitment of required staff immediately?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The review of staff positions in AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras is a continuous process. Proposals for creation of about 2,000 posts in Doordarshan and about 700 posts in AIR are currently being processed with the Ministry of Finance.

As soon as the posts are created, steps are immediately initiated to fill-up these posts as per the provisions of relevant recruitment rules.

Setting up of Concrete Sleeper Plant in Sri Lanka

5204. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka for setting up concrete sleeper plant and implementation of Rail Track Projects in Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Sri Lanka showed interest in setting up concrete sleeper plant. An offer was submitted by IRCON (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways) to Govt. of Sri Lanka in 1994.

There is no offer for implementation of rail track projects in Sri Lanka by the Government.

(b) Government of Sri Lanka has informed that based on reviews of their requirement they have pended the proposal for setting up of concrete sleeper plant.

[*English*]

Survey for Laying Down New Rail Line in Nandyal-Yerraguntla Section

5205. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying down new rail lines in Nandyal-Yerraguntla section under South-Central Railway is proposed to be taken up;

(b) if so, the time by which the above survey work is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the approximate funds sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The survey for Nandyal-Yerraguntla section has already been completed and based on this survey the work has been included in the Budget.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 3.78 lakhs has been spent on the survey.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of STD/PCO Booths

5206. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD/PCO booths allotted to the handicapped and unemployed persons are being illegally run by other persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any connivance of the Telecom employees has been detected in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details for the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[*English*]

Functioning of Rural/Urban Telephones

5207. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the functioning of telephones in urban areas and rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have imparted training to the linemen to handle the latest technology to ensure prompt and efficient service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The linemen cadre has been re-structured into the cadre of phone mechanic. The phone mechanics are being imparted 8 weeks training including the latest technology. However, Linemen who have not opted for Phone Mechanics cadre, are being imparted a 3-week training to upgrade their skill.

Rush of Passengers on New Delhi-Palwal Route

5208. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy load of daily passengers on Palwal-New Delhi route and particularly at New Town Faridabad station;

(b) if so, whether any Action Plan has been chalked out by the Government to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that if 4003 Intercity Express is provided with a halt at New Town Faridabad station and the same is extended upto New Delhi it will meet the genuine demand of the people of this area; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. During the morning and evening peak hours.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no plan to introduce additional trains on Palwal-Faridabad-New Delhi section due to operational and resource constraints. However, EMU rakes on this sector are being progressively augmented to 12 car to meet extra rush.

(d) and (e) Stoppage of 4003 Agra Cantt.-Nizamuddin Express at Faridabad Town has been examined but not found feasible.