

(a) whether it is a fact that Tohara Railway Station under North-East Railway is an important business Centre of grains, clothes etc;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is no godown on broad gauge line;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to construct a godown at above Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) No railway station by name 'Tohara' is existing on North-Eastern Railway. However, a station named 'Teghra' is located on Barauni-Muzaffarpur BG section of Sonapur Division on North Eastern Railway where goods booking facility is neither presently provided nor is intended to be provided in the near future. Barauni railway station which is only 8 kms. away from Teghra railway station, is open for goods traffic and traders/people of the area can avail the services of this station for booking their consignments.

[English]

Survey for Kottayam-Dindigul Rail Line

2092. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which survey had been conducted on Kottayam-Dindigul railway line;

(b) the total amount spent on the survey; and

(c) the time by which construction work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The survey is still in progress.

(b) Rs. 15.70 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise.

Hindustan Zinc Limited

2093. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Hindustan Zinc Limited; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Hindustan Zinc Limited is reviewed by the Ministry of Mines regularly. Further, regular monitoring of the physical, financial and marketing performance of the Company is done by the Ministry and whenever required suitable advice is rendered to the Company to improve the performance. The Ministry also renders assistance to the Company to overcome various

problems by way of coordination and consultation with other authorities concerned.

As a result of the measures indicated above, the overall performance of Hindustan Zinc Limited has remained satisfactory and the Company is making profits despite unfavourable market conditions. The overall "rating" of the Company in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), entered into by the Company with the Government for the year 1995-96, was "Very Good".

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

2094. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in Orissa till date, district-wise; and

(b) the number of manual exchanges converted into electronic exchanges during 1995-96 and 1996-97, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) As on 28th Feb. 97 there are 719 Nos. of electronic exchanges functioning in the State. The district-wise details are furnished in the statement attached.

(b) Nil.

Statement

ORISSA TELECOM CIRCLE

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Orissa As on 28.2.97

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Electronic Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	31
2.	Bhadrak	20
3.	Mayurbhanj	34
4.	Ganjam	71
5.	Gajapati	16
6.	Phulbani	21
7.	Boudh	10
8.	Khurda	44
9.	Nayagarh	15
10.	Puri	27
11.	Bolangir	22
12.	Sonepur	8
13.	Kalahandi	16
14.	Nuapada	8
15.	Cuttack	39
16.	Jagatsinghpur	28
17.	Kendrapara	19
18.	Jajpur	29

1	2	3
19.	Keonjhar	31
20.	Angul	29
21.	Dhenkanal	29
22.	Koraput	23
23.	Malkangiri	6
24.	Nowrangpur	11
25.	Rayagada	20
26.	Sambalpur	26
27.	Jharsuguda	12
28.	Bargarh	32
29.	Deogarh	3
30.	Sundargarh	39
Total		719

PCO In Bihar

2095. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PCOs allotted in urban and rural areas in Bihar;

(b) the details of post offices in rural areas which do not have PCOs and target time to install PCOs in every village Post Office, district-wise;

(c) whether SCs/STs are given preferential treatment in allotment of PCO booths; and

(d) if so, the number of PCO booths allotted to SCs/STs alongwith details?

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

Utilisation of Bitragunta Loco Shed

2096. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are not utilising the existing infrastructure and Railway assets at Bitragunta Loco shed under South Central Railway instead of spending huge amounts to build the same elsewhere; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) At present there is no Loco shed existing at Bitragunta in South Central Railway. Due to Electricification and Dieselisation the Steam Loco shed there was closed down in 1981. No amount is being spent on building Steam Loco sheds elsewhere.

Gauge Conversion

2097. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total kilometer of narrow gauge railway lines have been converted into broad gauge during 1991-1996;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon during the above period;

(c) the details of the States benefited;

(d) whether the Railways have seriously considered for the gauge conversion from Quilon to Virudhunagar in Southern Railway; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) 341 kms of NG lines have been converted into BG since 01.04.91 till date.

(b) During the priod, a sum of Rs. 235 crores were spent on gauge conversion of narrow gauge lines.

(c) The States benefited are Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The project has been included in the Budget 97-98 at a cost of Rs. 280 crores. The work will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

Development of Sidh Baba Sodal Temple, Jalandhar

2098. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the Government of Punjab for the development of Sidh Baba Sodal Temple, Jalandhar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this temple has been neglected by the Union Government inspite of developing it as an international tourist place and famous pilgrimage centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(e) whether any financial assistance has been sought by the Government of Punjab for its development; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount released by the Union Government, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (f) The Department of Tourism has not received any proposal from Government of Punjab for development of Sidh Baba Sodal Temple.