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Alleppey	Upgradation and Replacement of 100 KW MW Transmitter to 200 KW MW power.
Manjeri (Mallapuram)	Local Radio Station with 1 KW MW Transmitter Multi-Purpose Studio and Staff Quarters

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Tracks

173. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify the railway track from Mughalsarai to Guwahati keeping in view the shortage of petrol and diesel in the country.

(b) if so, by when, and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Section Mughalsarai-Rampur Dumra-Barauni is part of Mughalsarai-Patna-Sitarampur electrification project. Electrification of entire section is targeted for completion by March, 99. There is no proposal at present to electrify Barauni-Guwahati section.

[English]

Export of Manpower to Brunei

174. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the agencies engaged in selection of candidates and export of manpower to Brunei;

(b) the terms and conditions imposed by the Government on these agencies for selection of candidates.

(c) whether the Government are aware of some illegal transactions connected with such export of manpower by luring unemployed Indians by such illegitimate agencies/persons; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Every Recruiting Agent registered with the Ministry of Labour or a project Exporter after obtaining permit, can carry out recruitment for export of manpower to any foreign country including Brunei.

(b) Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour for this purpose and the project Exporters are

required to furnish employment agreement, demand letter and power of attorney duly attested by the Indian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam.

(c) and (d) Complaints against unauthorised functioning of Recruiting agents are investigated for further legal action as per provisions of Emigration Act, as & when received.

Railways Line in Sunderban Area

175. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay down railway lines in the Sunderban area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Construction of a new line from Lakshmikantapur to Namkhona (47 kms.) has been taken up. Lakshmikantapur to Nischintpur (21.95 kms.) has already been completed. The remaining work would get completed in the coming years.

T.V. Relay Centre in West Bengal

176. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ongoing Doordarshan projects in West Bengal;

(b) the number of projects likely to be completed during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the present status and financial provisions made therefor; and

(d) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government from West Bengal and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Seven Doordarshan projects, including two studio projects, are presently under implementation in the State of West Bengal.

(b) and (c). While installation of TV Studio, Jalpaiguri and Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) at Farkka and Murshidabad (DD-2) are technically ready and await commissioning pending sanction of staff, LPTs at Ryna, Rasanti and Bishnupur are expected to be completed by the end of 1996-97 at a cost of approximately Rs.1.00 crores each. The permanent Studio set up at Shantiniketan is expected to be completed by the end of 1997-98 at an approved cost of Rs. 181.75 lakh. The approved cost of TV studio, Jalpaiguri is Rs.451.09 lakh.

A provision of Rs.258.47 lakh had been kept in Doordarshan's Annual Plan 1996-97 for these projects.

(d) Requests are received from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in the States. Such requests are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as suitability of location, availability of infrastructural facilities, extent of resultant coverage and inter-se priorities, while finalising locations for Doordarshan projects which is continuous activity.

Stoppages at Railway Stations in Thiruvananthapuram District

177 SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Railway Stations in Thiruvananthapuram District having large number of passenger traffic are still deprived of stoppages for some Express trains;

(b) if so, whether there is any demand for the stoppage of the Vanchinad Express at Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram and for the stoppages of Madras Mail and Day Express at Chirayinkil and Kadakavur alternatively;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Vanchinad Express, Madras Mail, Parasuram Express and the Inter-city Express are being side-lined for crossings at the said stations; and

(d) if so, the demands for stoppages at the said stations have been met with so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Additional stoppage of a mail/express train is provided keeping in view the traffic at a station as well as to maintain the fast character of the train in the interest of the through passengers.

(b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) All these trains are not scheduled to be detained for crossing at Varkala, Kadakavur and Chirayinkil. However, on a day to day basis due to operational exigencies some of these trains do get detained for crossing.

(d) Examined but not found justified.

Telephone Charges

178. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Telephone Department is examining the option of reverting to the original time-table when quarter charges were available from 10 p.m. and not 9 p.m.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government are aware that the upgrading and modernising both switching and transmission technology, the bottleneck experienced at present by the subscribers during 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. can be reduced to much extent; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The feasibility of changing the time-table of concessional period is being examined. This is being done based on technical, economic and traffic studies.

Provision of Modern Facilities at Howrah Yard

179 SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum amenities are not available at Howrah Yard and employees are working in a most unhygienic conditions there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide adequate modern facilities at Howrah Yard and to improve working condition of employees?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

CEMP Council for Employment of Indian labourers abroad

180. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to promote the employment of Indian Labourers abroad;

(b) if so, the function of the Council;

(c) the details of the composition of the Council; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). A proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to render promotional and advisory services is under examination of Government. Question of setting a time schedule for this purpose will arise only if a decision to set up the proposed council is taken dependent upon other concerned Ministries/Departments of Government agreeing to it.