

- (b) if so, the progress made so far, and
(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A suitable site for the LPT project at Attappadi in Pallakhad district of Kerala has been taken over and departmental works are in progress. As per the present indications, the installation work on the project is expected to be completed by March, 1997.

[Translation]

Poor Maintenance of Telephone in Maharashtra

250. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone facilities in a number of villages in Maharashtra are on the verge of closure due to its poor maintenance;

(b) if so, the schemes of the Government for maintaining the telephones in goodshape;

(c) whether the Government propose to replace the old cross-bar sytem with fully electronic system in the State; and

(d) if so, the time by which the cross-bar system is likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No. Sir. Only some village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been reported faulty.

(b) The Telecom Circles have been asked to enter into Annual Maintenance contracts with the manufacturers. To monitor the performance of VPTs regorous testing procedure have been prescribed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) By the end of 9th Five Year Plan

[English]

Completion of Railway Projects in North-Eastern States

251. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the physical progress of the different railway projects in North Eastern States;

(b) the names of the projects proposed to be completed during the current years; and

(c) the details of allocation made during the current year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (c). Different Railway Projects in North Eastern States :

Progress of Railway Projects in N.E. States :

Name of the Project	Physical Progress	Budget Allocation in current year
New Lines		
1. Jogighopa-Guwahati Rail-cum-Road Bridge across Brahmaputra at Jogighopa alongwith BG Railway Line from Jogighopa to Guwahati.	i. Overall Progress 72.30%. ii. Rail-cum-Road-Bridge 94%. iii. Railway Line 51.05%.	27.00 crores
2. Kumarghat-Agartala	Nil	01.00 crores
3. Dudhnoi-Deepa	Nil	05.00 crores
Gauge Conversion		
4. Lumding to Dibrugarh including link branches (628 kms)	47.2%	88.00 crores
5. New Guwahati-Lumding including Chaparmukh-Haibargaon linked branch (202.11 Km)	99.5%	05.19 crores
6. Lumding-Silchar including new alignment between Migrendisa - Ditokcherra (198 Km)	Nil	10.00 crores