

details of the projects are as under :

| Name | Anticipated cost | Outlay | | Actual Expenditure | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| | | 95-96 | 96-97 | 95-96 | 96-97 |
| 1. Vasai Road-Vaitarna Third and Fourth Lines along with flyover with DC traction. (16.64 Kms.) | 46.16 | 7.18 | - | 7.18 | |
| 2. Borivali-Vasai Road-Quadrupling of lines (17.65 kms). | 131.34 | 4.00 | 1.00 | 4.00 | |
| 3. Diva-Panvel Doubling | 47.00 | 5.00 | 23.79 | 1.00 | |
| 4. Diva-Vasai Road Doubling | 90.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | ** | |

As per decision taken during 1996-97 the quadrupling of Borivali-Virar will be undertaken in lieu of item 1 and 2 above under BOLT Scheme. So, only nominal outlay has been given for the combined scheme in 1996-97.

** Diva-Vasai Road project was cleared in July '96 by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. So, no expenditure was incurred during 1995-96. Work has just commenced in 20 Kms out of 42 Kms.

Actual expenditure at the end of 1996-97 is likely to be the same as per outlay provided for the project.

(c) The projects are being progressed with in the overall constraint of available resources.

(d) The projects are likely to be completed as under :

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Borivali-Virar quadrupling | 2000 |
| 2. | Diva-Panvel doubling | 1997-98 |
| 3. | Diva-Vasai Road Doubling | 1998-99 |

Status of Attendant of First Class Pass-holder

1900. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attendant to the first class passholder is still termed as paid-servant even after a lapse of fifty years of independence;

(b) if so, whether term of attendant is proposed to be changed as companion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to allow companion of the pass-holder to travel with the pass-holder in the same class as no purpose is served by the attendant in course of travel in the other class; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). Serving/Retired railway employees who are eligible for First Class Privilege Passes are permitted to take an attendant in Second Class who is exclusively employed on salary in the personal service of such such railway

employees. There is no proposal to liberalise the existing facilities due to wide repercussions and financial implications.

MRTPC Notice to MTNL

1901. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MRTPC had issued a notice of enquiry to the MTNL for charging a service tax at the rate of 5 per cent on telephone bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the case;

(c) whether the Government propose to withhold the service tax from subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Notice of enquiry was issued by MRTPC to MTNL on 17.9.96 in titled case R.S. Mann Vs. MTNL.

(b) In the aforesaid notice the commission has stated that MTNL has now started charging service tax @ 5% on the amount of bill without any quid-pro-quo. It is further stated that the trade practice of charging service tax without any quid-pro-quo has the effect of imposing unjustified costs/restrictions on the consumers and also amounts to manipulation of prices or conditions of delivery of flow of supplies in the market relating to provision of telephone services in a manner so as to impose on the consumers unjustified costs or

restrictions within the meaning of section 2(o) (ii) of the MRTP Act, 1969. The reply to notice of enquiry is to be filed by MTNL, by 20.1.97 when the matter will be heard by the Commission.

(c) to (e). The service tax is recoverable from the subscribers of telephone connection as per Finance Act, 1994 and rules made thereunder.

Removal of Unauthorised Hutment Dwellers

1902. SHRI MADHUKAR SIROTDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Administration has agreed in principal to remove the unauthorised hutment dwellers residing by the side of local railway trains tracks in Mumbai suburban section of Central and Western Railways and provide the hutment dwellers alternate railway land; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Removal of unauthorised occupants on Railway land is a continuous process. Action against the encroachers of Railway land is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. As regards resettlement of slum-dwellers, it is not the responsibility of railway to provide alternate Railway land.

(b) Does not arise.

Handling of Air Buses

1903. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any of the Airports in North Eastern States are capable of handling Airbus;

(b) if so, names of those airports;

(c) whether such facilities are to be extended to other airports; and

(d) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guwahati airport in Assam is suitable for Airbus-300 class of aircraft operations. Dibrugarh in Assam, Imphal in Manipur, Agartala in Tripura and Dimapur in Nagaland are suitable for Airbus-320 class of aircraft operations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Lilabari (North Lakhimpur) is being developed to make it suitable for Airbus-320 aircraft operations by strengthening and extending the runway. The work is likely to be completed by July, 1998.

Stoppage of Bokaro Shatabdi Express at Raniganj

1904. SHRI MEHBOOB ZEHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide stoppage of Bokaro Shatabadi Express at Raniganj and commercial stoppage at Gomoh to earn more revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the announcement system/music channel in this train has been stopped;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be started?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not found justified.

(d) and (e). Temporary announcement system was functioning for only three months, in an improvised manner for Guard's Van.

(f) There is no proposal to revive it.

Increase in Passengers between Howrah-New Delhi Route

1905. SHRI BALAJI CHANDRA'RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers have been increased between Howrah and New Delhi route many fold;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that persons buying tickets by Kalka Mail, Poorva Express and Rajdhani Express are kept under Waiting List and thereby denied accommodation in these trains;

(c) if so, the details of average daily number of persons on waiting list for Poorva Express, Kalka Mail for all classes during the last two years;

(d) whether it is also a fact that not a single superfast train has been introduced from Howrah to New Delhi for a long time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the frequency of 2381/2382 is going to be increased to daily in lieu of thrice a week now; and

(g) if not, the alternative considered by the Government to provide accommodation to large number of persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The passenger traffic has increased between New Delhi and Howrah and there is unsatisfied demand also.