

(d) the number of persons benefited from the daily Ring Railway Service in Delhi till date; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government for the development of Ring Railway Service in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) & (b). In order to decongest traffic from Shahdara in the East and Tughlakabad in South, Ring Railway was started in 1970 and completed before Asiad. These lines were originally planned as Goods avoiding lines and they were not planned to carry commuters. Presently ring railway operate 7 trains in the clockwise and 4 trains in the anti-clockwise direction during morning and evening peak hour traffic. The number of Goods trains on these lines is so high, that there is no scope for running additional passenger trains on this route.

(c) No amount was allocated during the last 3 years to Ring Railway Service in Delhi.

(d) The number of person travelled daily by the Ring Railway Service in Delhi as under:-

Year	No. of Passengers
1994-95	14,27,000
1995-96	14,98,000
1996-97(Oct'96)	8,47,000

(e) In the meeting of National Capital Region, Planning Board held on 24.9.96, it was decided that the feasibility study for laying of additional tracks along the Ring Rail in Delhi should be conducted by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in co-ordination with National Capital Region Planning Board. Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules 1986, proposal for such rail based Urban Transport Projects are now to be processed by the MUA & Employment and the State Government concerned.

[English]

Relay Centre at Durgapur

2922. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) the details of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras in West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a TV centre at Durgapur, West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Statement indicating status of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras in West Bengal is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

STATEMENT

TV Transmitters		AIR Kendras	
State	Existing		
West Bengal	PPC	Calcutta Shantiniketan (int.)	Calcutta Kurseong
	HPT	Asansol Calcutta Calcutta (DD II) Calcutta (DD III) Kurseong Murshidabad	Siliguri Murshidabad
	LPT	Alipurduar Balurghat Bardhaman Contai Darjeeling Jhargram Kalimpong Lalna Kharagpur Krishnanagar Maldah Medinipur Puruliya Ranaghat Shantiniketan	
	VLPT	Egra Jhalda	

Gauge Conversion

2923. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kalol-Katosan-Ranuj railway line is proposed to be detached for conversion from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether alternative arrangement is made by the Railway authorities for regular passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no plan to convert this section to Broad Gauge.

However, Metre Gauge services will continue to run in this section.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Official of AIR, New Delhi

2924. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed in regard to transfer of officials of AIR, New Delhi;

(b) the Number of officials working on the same station from 15-20 years, station-wise;

(c) the reasons for their long stay at the same station;

(d) the number of officials transferred within a short period, station-wise;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to adopt a comprehensive policy in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (h). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Passenger Train

2925. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand for introduction of passenger train from Asansol to Suri, Bolpur, Azimganj, Sahibganj and North-West States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the main hurdles which are being faced by the Government to introduce such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received including from Shri Haradhan Roy, MP.

(c) to (e). Asansol is linked with direct services to North-Western States viz. Rajasthan and Punjab. Introduction of additional trains from Asansol has been examined but not found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Post Office to Rural People

2926. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many villages of Gujarat are without postal facilities;

(b) if so, the details alongwith number thereof: district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide postal facilities in those villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of a total number of 18028 inhabited villages in Gujarat, 9949 villages do not have Post Offices.

(b) District-wise numbers are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual plan Schemes subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

STATEMENT

District-wise Information regarding Villages with Post Offices and without Post Offices as on 31-3-96.

In Gujarat

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Villages (Inhabited)	No. of Villages with P.O.	No. of Villages Without P.O.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	665	421	244
2.	Gandhinagar	73	59	14
3.	Mehsana	1145	296	849
4.	Banaskantha	1368	434	934
5.	Sabarkantha	1363	796	567
6.	Bharuch	1065	477	588
7.	Dang	309	56	253
8.	Kheda	960	568	392
9.	Panchmahals	1885	510	1375
10.	Surat	1196	553	643
11.	Vadodara	1648	609	1039
12.	Valsad	824	530	294
13.	Amreli	584	305	279
14.	Bhavnagar	865	425	440
15.	Jamnagar	707	342	365