

### C. Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)

The modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant (Stage I) is being implemented through 4 main global packages and 34 indigenous packages. Design engineering, civil and structural work for the various packages are nearing completion. Equipment supply and its erection are in progress. The modernisation is likely to be completed by July, 1997 as per schedule.

The approval Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the project is Rs 1792.90 crore. The cumulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs 1004.38 crore.

### Air Services to Remote and Backward Areas

1085 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has recently taken a serious note of some of the private scheduled airlines not adhering commitments to operate services to the remote and backward areas.

(b) if so the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure strict action against those private airlines not adhering to the commitments, and

(d) if so the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Airlines operators are free to choose their routes. However in accordance with the route dispersal guidelines laid down by the Government all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North East Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep at least 10% of their capacity deployed on trunk routes. Action is taken against the defaulting airlines who fail to adhere to the said guidelines.

Recently M/s. Modiluft and M/s. Sahara India Airlines operations were cut on trunk routes to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

[Translation]

### Free Railway Passes to Freedom Fighters

1086 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of freedom fighters to whom free railway passes have been issued during 1995-96 till date alongwith the class of railway journey in which they are entitled to travel, and

(b) the total amount of expenditure borne by railways during each of the last three years due to the extension of above facility?

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

No. of freedom fighters	Class of entitlement
47,849	I/II AC

(b) The cost of card passes issued to freedom fighters is borne by Ministry of Home Affairs, which is as under for last three years.

1993-94	=	Rs 53.04 crores
1994-95	=	Rs 44.88 crores
1995-96 (upto July '96)	=	Rs 65.40 crores

### Claims Received by Chief Commercial Officer (Claims)

1087. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of different claims received in the office of the Chief Commercial Officer (Claims) Northern Railway from January 1996 till date, and

(b) the number of claims disposed of/pending out of these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 37346 Claims cases have been registered by 31.10.1996.

(b) Number of Claims cases disposed is 32406 and number of pending Claims cases is 4940.

[English]

### Telephone Tapping

1088. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether a CBI enquiry was instituted under the instructions of the Prime Minister into the allegations of tapping of telephones of VIPs in Delhi;

(b) if so the details of the allegations made;

(c) whether CBI has since submitted its report;

(d) if so the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CBI has informed that newspaper reports had appeared in the Asian Age and Sunday Times dated 4.8.96 alleging that telephones of many political leaders are being tapped. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India directed CBI to conduct an impartial enquiry into the alleged telephone tapping during the period from 1.6.1996 onwards. The Special Crime Branch-I of CBI registered a case on 7.8.96.

(c) CBI has sent its report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 4.9.1996 after completion of its enquiry into the allegations.

(d) The CBI enquiries neither revealed any evidence nor any indication to show that the telephones of any political persons whose names found mention in newspaper reports, had been intercepted by any of the Govt. agencies during the period 1.6.1996 onwards. The enquiries also revealed that the Prime Minister had not ordered any telephone interception.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

#### Bungling at Telecommunication Centre, Kanpur

1089. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bungling at Telecommunication Centre in Kanpur (U.P.) where Pulse IC are changed by tempering Pulse Rate machines in place of 16 K.C. Pulse rate fixed by Telecommunication Department and local call service is provided only for three minutes instead of five minutes and Rs 2 is charged instead of Rs. 1 and 39 paise.

(b) if so, the revenue loss by the Government; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nil.

(c) Complaints received in this regard have been investigated. One STD PCO and 10 local PCOs where such malpractices were observed have been disconnected.

[English]

#### Inferior Quality of Cable

1090. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the use of inferior quality of cable in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action propose to take against the erring officials held responsible for loss of revenue and faulty telephone services in Nanded city?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir. Only standard cables according to DOT specifications duly tested by Quality

Assurance Wing of DOT at factory premises are purchased and used in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the Authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

#### Doubling of Railway Line

1091. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling work on Kazra to Kiul railway line between Bhagalpur and Kiul Railway sections has been dropped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the doubling work on above line is likely to be re-started?

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

(b) and (c). The level of Traffic and traffic projections on this section does not justify its doubling at present.

[English]

#### Waiting Period

1092. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the average period of waiting for a telephone connection under the different categories have come down during the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise;

(c) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on date, State-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the growth of telecommunication network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Category-wise details in this respect are being collected from the Circles and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per enclosed Statement.

(d) It is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. A high growth rate is also proposed to be maintained in future also.