

(c) the reasons for the unabated continuance of accidents and derailments; and

(d) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, only one Commission of Enquiry under Justice N. Venkatachala, a retired Judge of Supreme Court has been appointed by the Ministry of Railways to enquire into the causes of accidents involving (i) collision of Up 3151 Jammu Tawi Express against Up BKSC Goods train on Eastern Railway on 1-6-1995, and (ii) derailment of train No. 8448 Hirakhand Express which occurred on S. E. Railway on 1-6-1995. The commission concluded rash and negligent behaviour of the station staff at Kalubathan on Eastern Railway and unrenewed bad track condition in Sambalpur Division of South Eastern Railway respectively, being responsible for these accidents. The commission made the following major suggestions for checking collisions and derailments on Railways.

Suggestions for Checking collisions:

- (i) Track circuiting
- (ii) Auxillary Warning System
- (iii) Mobile Radio Communication
- (iv) Solid State Interlocking
- (v) Use of pre-stressed reinforced concrete sleepers
- (vi) Ensuring supply of quality spare parts for railway maintenance etc.

Suggestions for checking derailments :

- (i) Thorough detection of rail flaws.
- (ii) Making good of shortage in track maintenance gangs
- (iii) Track renewal
- (iv) Improving infrastructure and other facilities in the train examination depots.
- (v) Timely action to prevent spring breakages
- (vi) Provision of additional washing lines/pit lines at all sizable carriage sheds.
- (vii) Posting of technically qualified persons as TXRs and avoid indiscriminate promotions of fitters etc. as TXR.
- (viii) Ensuring adequate supply of spare stores at all carriages depots.

(ix) Check on introduction of new coaching service.

(x) Periodical cadre review.

All these recommendations have been accepted and implemented by the Ministry of Railways. An Action Taken Report together with the Report of the commission has been laid on the Table of the Sabha on 20th December 1996.

(c) Despite all out efforts to contain them, accidents on the railways occur mainly due to human error, equipment failures, sabotage and other incidental factors.

(d) Rs. 26.52 lakhs.

[Translation]

Full Time Programmes on LPT

2619. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast full time regular programmes through Low Power T.V. Transmission centres in Devaria, Gorakhpur districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start these channel under a time bound programme; and

(d) if so, the time by which these channels are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) While a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Gorakhpur and a Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Deoria are, at present, operational in these districts and providing regular transmission of National network programmes and Regional service of Uttar Pradesh, there is no approved scheme, at present, to relay any other channels from these transmitters.

Scheme for Thermal Power Plant

2620. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the thermal power plants of the country pollution free and to increase their efficiency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To make the thermal power plants pollution free and to increase their efficiency the Central Government initiated a scheme viz. Renovation & Modernisation (Phase-I). Which mainly covered installation of electrostatic precipitators in the thermal stations. This scheme has already been implemented. Renovation and Modernisation (Phase-II) has been taken up for implementation since 1991 and is likely to be completed by the end of the 9th Plan period.

[English]

Expenditure Incurred on Film Division

2621. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on Films Division during the last two years;

(b) details of expenditure incurred separately in respect of wages to employees and cost of films produced;

(c) whether the working of Films Division is reviewed from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) The details of expenditure incurred by Films Division during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

		(Rs. in lakhs)	
		1995-96	1996-97
I.	Production		
	(a) Cost of production	310.53	458.73
	(b) Wages	109.13	120.60
		419.66	579.33
II.	Distribution		
	(a) Cost of Distribution	828.43	748.50
	(b) Wages	381.98	422.20
		1210.41	1170.70
III.	Overheads	160.00	167.23
	Total expenditure (I + II + III)	1790.07	1917.26

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Communications, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Shyam Benegal, a noted film personality, has been constituted to review the objectives, functions and procedures of Films Division in all its aspects. The Committee is expected to submit its report by 31st October, 1997.

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge at Varanasi

2622. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the railway crossings in Varanasi cause disruption to road traffic thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to the road users; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct over bridges on the said railway crossings particularly at Madu, Aadih, Alaipura and Lahartara for the convenience of villagers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposals have been received from State Govt. for construction of Road Over Bridges on these level crossings.

[English]

Development of Software for Network

2623. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the software for networking arrangements at all locations where computerised reservations facilities made available has been developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which all the State Capitals are likely to be brought under networking arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) A project has been undertaken for networking of the 5 computerised Passenger Reservation Systems of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Secunderabad, the software for which has been developed. In the initial phase, the new software has been made operational in a stand-alone mode at the New Delhi and Secunderabad Systems. Preliminary testing has been undertaken for networking between these two Systems and this testing is in progress. It would be feasible to connect all locations having computerised reservations facilities, including State Capitals, only after the networking