

Opening of Additional Ticket Counters

1485. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have planned to open additional ticket counters at Barddhaman South and North side to cope up with the rush of the railway passengers;

(b) if so, the time by which these counters are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present 10 general counters including 5 Self Printing Ticketing Machines counters and one reservation counter are in operation at Barddhaman Station and approximately 24,772 tickets are issued daily from these counters. The existing counters are adequate to meet the present level of demand.

Door at Yatrik Restaurant at Howrah

1486. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide a door at Yatrik Restaurant, Howrah at the river-side for entrance to the restaurant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. there is already one entrance/exit from the Hotel's Lobby. Provision of another door on the river side will spoil the interior decor of the Restaurant and affect the monitoring of customer services.

Running of Nagercoil Express

1487. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the commuters travelling on Nagercoil-Mumbai route;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to run Nagercoil Express on daily basis; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started on daily basis?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Some representations for the daily running of 6339/6340 Nagercoil-Mumbai Express have been received.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Beautification of Howrah Railway Station

1488. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government for beautification of Howrah Railway station during the last three years; year-wise and scheme-wise details thereof;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released during the current financial year;

(c) whether cleaning of railway lines, platforms, replacement of overhead sheds, seating arrangements at platforms, lighting at platforms, passenger amenities are part of beautification project; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not replacing/repairing overhead sheds, cleaning of railway lines, platforms properly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Railways undertake works of developmental nature required to meet with the traffic handled. In addition to such works stations are kept in well maintained condition by way of periodical repairs, replacements wherever so warranted. Regular cleaning and periodical colour washing are also undertaken.

Howrah railway station being one of the important stations on Indian Railways is kept in well maintained and upto date condition. No separate amount has been sanctioned for beautification. All amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic is already provided at the station. Cleaning of railway lines and platforms are being done regularly. All platforms have been provided with sheds except platform No. 15 for which work has already been sanctioned. Passenger amenity items, electrical fittings, fans and lights are also in working condition.

Gold Deposits in Orissa

1489. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a satellite survey has revealed huge gold deposits in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has recently discovered Gold deposit in Malkanagiri district in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the export potential of the Gold?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has not carried out any satellite survey for gold exploration in Orissa.

- (b) Question does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Million Wells Scheme in Karnataka

1490. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of wells to be dug in Karnataka during the current year under the Million Wells Scheme;
 (b) the number of SCs/STs likely to get jobs under the scheme; and
 (c) the funds allocated to the State thereunder during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) The Government of Karnataka has not furnished the target of Wells to be dug under Million Wells Scheme (MWS) during the current financial year. However, during 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 2915.55 lakhs would be available for the implementation of MWS in Karnataka which includes Central allocation of Rs. 2332.44 lakhs and the corresponding 20% State Share amounting to Rs. 583.11 lakhs.

(b) The objective of MWS is to provide irrigation source and land development, free of cost to the small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and non-SCs/STs poor people living below poverty line. Not less than 2/3rd of the allocation made is to be spent for schemes benefiting poor small and marginal SC/ST farmers.

(c) The total Central funds allocated to the Government of Karnataka during last three years under MWS is as under :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Central Allocation
1994-95	4367.14
1995-96	2332.44
1996-97	2332.44

Availability of more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas

1491. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make available more rooms at Rail Yatri Niwas, Howrah by vacating the space which is occupied by the Railway office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make space for the conference room at this Yatri Niwas;

(d) if so, whether the condition of the rooms and the fittings of this Yatri Niwas is being considered for improvement; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for proper maintenance of the electrical, civil works and cleanliness of Yatri Niwas, Howrah?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Steps have been taken to improve overall condition of Rail Yatri Niwas at Howrah, including maintenance and up-keep of the electrical accessories, civil works, cleanliness and periodic inspections.

Fast Track Project

1492. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 32,000 crore fast track project moving at snail's pace" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated 9.7.1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the action taken/proposed to ensure effective steps in removal of snags at operational/field levels for efficient execution of the projects during 1997-98 and project-wise strategies worked out;

(d) the action plan finalised for the project in Maharashtra; and

(e) the present status of pending power project proposals in Vidarbha and particularly in Amravati district in Maharashtra?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government of India identified 8 projects for extending its counter guarantee. Out of these fast track projects, counter guarantee has already been issued to Jegurupadu Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) of M/s. GVK Industries in Andhra Pradesh and Dabhol CCGT (Phase-I) of M/s. Enron Power Company in Maharashtra. M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Ltd. withdrew their request for counter guarantee for the Godavari CCGT in Andhra Pradesh. The remaining projects, namely Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (TPP) of M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. in Andhra Pradesh. Neveli (Zero Unit) TPP of M/s. ST-