

deposit terms at Yerraguntala from State Government/ Local Municipality. Rs. 5 Crore in the 97-98 Budget have been provided for Nandyal-Yerraguntala new BG line. Work will be taken up after land is made available by State Government Detailed Territorial jurisdictions of newly created zones have not yet been finalised.

#### Reduction in Running time of Rajdhani Express

4166. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the running time of Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Chennai;

(b) whether it is a fact that this route has more passenger traffic than the other metro connections;

(c) if so, the reasons for not increasing the schedule from once a week to six times a week; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Upgradation of technology for speeding up of the trains is a continuous process on the Indian Railways.

(b) Route-wise data of passenger traffic are not maintained.

(c) and (d) The frequency of 2633/2634 Madras Rajdhani Express is being increased from weekly to bi-weekly during April'97. Further increase in its frequency is not feasible at present.

#### Development of Srinagar Airport

4167. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for developing Srinagar airport as an international airport; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Srinagar Airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Clearance/approval of that Ministry has been sought for developing facilities to enable international operations from Srinagar airport.

#### Bharat Gold Mines Limited

4168. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the operation of BGML;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up a new process plant based on carbon-inpulp technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of gold by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) during each of the last three years is furnished below :

(Unit is Kgs.)

Year	Production
1993-94	672
1994-95	650
1995-96	650

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The rehabilitation package, submitted by M/s ICICI, the Operating Agency for the revival of BGML, envisages setting up of a project for recovery of gold by treatment of tailing through carbon-in-pulp technology.

#### Beedi Industries in Kerala

4169. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedi industries in Kerala are facing serious financial crises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the workers specially the large section of poor women employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Extraction of Lead from Bihar

4170. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey for exploration of lead in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take concrete steps for exploration of lead in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following investigations for Lead in association with Zinc and Copper have been carried out by Geological Survey of India (GSI) during the last 5 years : - (i) Exploration for basemetals (Cu+Pb+Zn) in Kusumghat, Dhawa, Biharkari, Charkipahari, Tulsitanr prospects around Pindara in Hesathu-Belabathan sector. (ii) Integrated geological, geochemical survey of Hesathu-Belabathan Polymetallic mineralised belt with Chhota-Nagpur granite Gneiss province in Banka, Deoghar and Giridh district. (iii) Exploration for basemetals (Cu+Pb+Zn) in Charkipahari- Tulsitanr project in Hesath-Blabathan sector, Deoghar and Banka district. (iv) Exploration for Polymetallic basemetal mineralisation in Jamuniya prospect, NNE of Bagodar, Giridhih district.

(c) and (d) Though Lead mineralisation has been established in most of the places, the results are not encouraging. Hence, no further exploration is planned in the area except in Gamuniya prospect.

#### Functioning of RPF and GRP

4171. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the functions of RPF and G.R.P. and the difference between the two;

(b) whether the functioning of these forces is hampered due to the existence of two forces;

(c) whether suggestions have been received for constitution of a single force in place of the two;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The functions of Government Railway Police are posicing in trains and railway premises which include prevention and detection of crimes and maintenance of law and order. The functions of RPF are to provide protection and security to the railway property including property entrusted to the Railways for transportation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Suggestions are received, from time to time, to improve upon the existing system and one of the suggestions under consideration was to constitute a single force in place of the two forces of GRP and RPF. There are practical difficulties in agreeing to this suggestion because GRP is a part of Police force of the

State concerned and policing is a "State subject" while RPF is basically a watch and ward staff of the Ministry of Railways, now upgraded to be one of the Armed Forces of the Union. Even if the State Governments agree to empowering a Central Government Force to do policing in railway premises and in trains and constitutional hurdle is crossed, it has to be assessed whether the new set up will improve upon matters or otherwise, because at present Government Railway Police has all the back-up of State Police Force to have criminal intelligence and armed Police to deal with law and order situations. Presently, however, there is a need for State Governments to make Government Railway Police more effective under the existing system itself.

[English]

#### Introduction of Passenger Train between Ratlam and Bhopal

4172. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand has been made since a long time for introduction of a passenger train direct from Ratlam between Ratlam and Bhopal under the Ratlam division of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, whether an assurance was also given by the senior officers in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not introducing the above train service so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some demands/representations have been received in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

#### Introduction of Bandel-Sealdah Locals

4173. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not introducing Bandel-Sealdah locals inspite of several public demands; and

(b) the reasons for neglecting public demands by the Eastern Railway Authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Four pairs of direct services are available connecting Sealdah and Bandel. Further 15 pairs of services on Sealdah-Naihati and 18 pairs on Naihati-Bandel serve the needs of Sealdah-Bandel passengers. Introduction of additional services between Sealdah and Bandel has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.