

Railway	Target 1996-97 Kms. (CTR Units)
Eastern	320
N. East Frontier	80
S. Eastern	560

(d) Track renewals are being sanctioned depending on the funds available, capacity of the railway to execute the works without affecting the train running and the importance of the route. Works are being executed accordingly.

Media Policy

2000. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new media policy as reported in the 'Times of India' dated September 12, 1996; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had submitted 'A Working Paper on National Media Policy' to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee i.e. Minister of Information and Broadcasting on 29.3.1996 for consideration in accordance with the terms and conditions for the functioning of the Sub-Committee. The Working Paper is presently under consideration with the newly constituted Consultative Committee of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Stoppage of Rampurhat Express at Bandel

2001. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people of Hooghly and North 24 Parganas of West Bengal are demanding for stoppage of 3017/3018 Rampurhat Express at Bandel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people of this area would be benefited to get direct train services to go to Bolpur, Tarapith and Rampurhat; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard. In view of availability of alternative services, there is no proposal at present to provide stoppage to 3017/3018 Howrah-Rampurhat Express at Bandel.

Participation of Workers in Management Bill, 1990

2002. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to review the Bill on Participation of Workers in Management Bill, 1990 with a view to incorporate amendments necessitated as a result of changing socio-economic scenario; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Participation of Workers in Management Bill, 1990 was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for examination and report. Following a preliminary hearing, the Parliamentary Standing Committee had suggested that the Government may review the Bill keeping in view the need for incorporating necessary amendments in the context of the changing socio-economic scenario of the country. The matter has been considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held on 24th-25th October, 1996 and it was decided that the Government may take appropriate action on the basis of the suggestions and notices received from all concerned.

The issue of amendments to the Participation of Workers in Management Bill, 1990 will be reviewed in the light of the deliberations of the Tripartite Committee on Employees Participation which is likely to be held shortly.

Basic Improvement in the Management of Hotels and Restaurants

2003. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received comprehensive representation from the All India ITDC Workers Federation for suggesting some basic improvement in the management of Hotels and Restaurants within ITDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ITDC management has been regularly closing down the running restaurants to enable private contractors to step into ITDC business without reasons;

(d) if so, whether ITDC management is proving itself incompetent to cater the needs of its clients and guests for serving food and beverages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) No such comprehensive representation has been received in the Hotels Division of ITDC.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. It is not true that ITDC management has been closing down the departmentally run restaurants for leasing out to private parties. However, ITDC leases

out to private parties some restaurants/space for restaurants of special cuisines based solely on business considerations and not due to its incompetence/failure.

Construction of High Level Platforms

2004. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the passengers at different stations between Barkar and Khana due to low level of platforms there;

(b) whether the Government are considering to construct high level platforms in those stations;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Railway stations are provided with platforms as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic. On Barkar - Khana Section rail level platforms have been provided at Khana, Rajbandh, Barachak, Paraj and Gaisi and low level platform at Andal. Work of provision of High Level platform at Gaisi has been sanctioned. Raising of platforms at other stations also will be considered when so warranted by growth in passenger traffic.

Sanction to Extension of Mumbai Suburban Railway

2005. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned extension of Mumbai Suburban Railway upto Dahanu Road Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Mumbai Suburban trains are likely to be running upto Dahanu Road Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The section upto Dahanu Road is already a notified section under Suburban system. Mumbai Suburban trains which are worked with 1500V DC system, can not be extended until dual voltage rakes become available and other system improvements like automatic block signalling, provision of high level platforms etc. are done. These works are under various stages of execution.

Pending Claims

2006. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of claims from Private parties for supplies made works are pending for settlement in Regional Offices of India Tourism and Development Corporation in mega cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the number of settlement cases lying pending for the last one year;

(c) the total number of cases referred to arbitration particularly in Mumbai and progress made thereunder;

(d) whether the Government are considering to take any fresh steps for settlement of pending claims within a stipulated time; and

(e) if so, the details of major irregularities reported/committed by ITDC and progress of investigation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Presently, no case of claims is reported to be pending in Regional Offices of ITDC pertaining to private parties.

(c) No case has been referred to arbitration from Regional Office, Bombay.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Gauge Conversion

2007. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any work has been commenced to convert the existing Kollam-Schencottah metre gauge railway line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be converted; and

(c) if not, the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The work has been included in the Budget 97-98 and would be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

Pension Scheme to the Workers of Indian Oil Corporation

2008. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers employed under Indian Oil Corporation in Eastern Region made petitions demanding immediate implementation of Pension Scheme 1995 and payment of pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Many employees of M/s Indian Oil Corporation in the Eastern Region have submitted representations for implementation of the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 and also for disallowing the exemption application submitted by their management. Final decision on the representations of the employees has not been taken yet.