

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to galvanise and streamline the system to exploit great potential of Indian Mineral Industries;

(d) the value of minerals and ore imported and exported during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to boost up export of these products and allow foreign investment for mineral exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) Mineral deposits generally occur in remote and backward areas with poor infrastructural facilities which often inhibit their optimum development. As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993, a major thrust is to be given for development of infrastructural facilities in mineral bearing areas. The development strategy of the Govt. attaches high priority to development of efficient infrastructure and towards creating an enabling environment for private participation in the infrastructure sector. To promote infrastructural projects, the Government has incorporated the infrastructural Development Finance Company besides allowing five year tax holiday for certain categories of infrastructural projects. The National Highway Authority of India is also now geared to implement the new policy on roads and highways. With a view to promote investment in the mineral sector, under the National Mineral Policy of 1993, 13 minerals which were reserved for exclusive exploitation by the public sector were thrown open for private investment both domestic and foreign. Subsequent amendments to the MMRD Act have also been made with a view to give effect to the policy changes in order to promote investment in the mining sector.

(d) The value of imports and exports of minerals and ores during each of the last three years is given below :

Year	Value - Rs. Million	
	Import	Export
1993-94	214601	142664
1994-95	193659	158318
1995-96	236599	198198

(e) With a view to facilitate foreign direct investment in the mineral sector, the Govt. has recently allowed (in January, 1997) automatic route for foreign equity participation upto 50% in case of mining of iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, copper, lead and zinc ores etc. Further, the Government has also allowed automatic approval route for foreign equity participation upto 74% for services incidental to mining excluding serviced related to gold, silver and precious/semi precious stones.

#### Accommodation Racket Thriving

3042. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Accommodation racket

thriving in Railway Colony' appearing in the 'Deccan Chronicle', Hyderabad dated October 17, 1995;

(b) if so, whether South Central Railway employees have given 60% out of 1500 railway quarters on rent;

(c) whether the Vigilance Department of the Railways have found a number of such cases; and

(d) if so, the steps have been taken by the Government to apprehend the culprits in view of checking up the misuse of railway quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of 125 quarters checked by Railway Vigilance/ CBI from January 1996 to November 1996 in Hyderabad/ Secunderabad areas, subletting of quarters was noticed on 27 cases.

(d) Action under D&AR has been initiated against the delinquent officials besides cancellation of their allotments. Further checks are continuing and action as deemed fit will continue to be taken against delinquent officials. The concerned authorities have also been instructed to ensure that the Colony Committees constituted for the purpose also investigate the cases and take necessary action to avoid recurrence of such cases.

#### Modernisation of Railway Stations

3043. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for the modernisation/development of Railway Stations at Cannanore and Calicut in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost and allocation made therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Transmission Capacity of Bhopal Doordarshan/AIR

3044. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission capacity of radio and Doordarshan stations of Bhopal at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to augment the capacity of these stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the number of artists employed or sponsored at these stations who belong to Madhya Pradesh and number out of them who are from outside the State;

(e) whether the programmes telecast are being prepared at the television station, Bhopal; and

(f) if so, the achievement made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Bhopal has four radio Transmitters having 50 KW SW, 10 KW MW, 3 KW FM and 1 KW MW powers, respectively, and two TV Transmitters, one HPT (10 KW) for primary channel and one LPT for the metro channel. In addition, DDK Bhopal has also a studio centre and an Earth Station for satellite uplinking.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No regular artist is being employed at DDK Bhopal, However, casual artists are engaged from time to time depending upon programme requirements. The number of local artists booked is 1770 and that from outside the State is 37.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The programmes cater to a large and extensive target audience including Rural/Urban, Women, Children, Industrial Workers, Tribals, etc. and have received widespread appreciation during the last three years.

#### **Survey for New Rail Line in Assam**

3045. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct a survey for railway line on the south bank of the Brahmaputra from Goalpara via Dudhnoi to Guwahati for which the people of Assam are agitating;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The line on the south bank of Brahmaputra from Jogighopa to Guwahati via Goalpara and Dudhnoi is already at an advanced stage of construction and is expected to be completed and opened for traffic by Dec' 98.

#### **Post Offices in Kerala**

3046. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices are working in rented buildings in Kerala, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government to construct own building against the rented buildings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The district-wise number of Post Offices in Kerala as on 31.3.1996 has been shown in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The number of departmental Post Offices functioning in rented buildings in Kerala Postal Circle, district-wise, is given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) The department constructs buildings for accommodating departmental Post Offices as per the availability of funds, land and other resources.

#### **Statement I**

##### *Details of number of post offices in Kerala - District-wise*

S.No.	Name of District	Number of Post Offices		
		Urban	Rural	Total
1.	Trivandrum	87	330	417
2.	Quilon	44	315	359
3.	Pathanamthitta	23	288	311
4.	Alleppey	48	242	290
5.	Kottayam	50	359	409
6.	Idukki	10	290	300
7.	Ernakulam	98	283	381
8.	Trichur	90	398	488
9.	Palghat	54	396	450
10.	Malappuram	32	399	431
11.	Calicut	78	340	418
12.	Wynad	2	159	161
13.	Cannanore	91	287	378
14.	Kasaragod	19	215	234
<b>Total</b>		<b>726</b>	<b>4301</b>	<b>5027</b>
15.	Lakshadweep	-	10	10
16.	Mahe of Pondicherry	4	-	4
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>730</b>	<b>4311</b>	<b>5041</b>