

been enhanced from 50 to 75% for a period upto 31.3.1997.

(iii) An adhoc amount of Rs.62 crores has been paid to the Company on account of liquidated damages and other financial issues.

Reduction in Percentage of Freight Traffic In Railways

2018. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of freight traffic in Railways is reduced considerably over the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such reduction;

(c) the quantity and the amount of freight traffic handled by Railways during the last three years, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to boost more freight traffic in Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Freight traffic is increasing steadily over the years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The freight traffic handled by Railways during the last three years is as under:

| Railway | (In million tonne) | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
| Central | 36.04 | 37.11 | 38.51 |
| Eastern | 70.88 | 72.03 | 73.39 |
| Northern | 24.99 | 21.47 | 25.94 |
| N. Eastern | 2.88 | 2.33 | 3.03 |
| N. Frontier | 5.79 | 6.53 | 7.21 |
| Southern | 19.02 | 19.27 | 21.02 |
| S. Central | 40.30 | 35.73 | 36.68 |
| S. Eastern | 131.50 | 141.72 | 155.50 |
| Western | 27.32 | 28.77 | 29.41 |
| Total | 358.72 | 364.96 | 390.69 |

(d) and (e) Close liaison is being maintained both with the rail user organisations as well as the concerned Ministries/Departments for maximum movement of traffic by rail. Through containers and introduction of Special containers trains efforts are being made to pick up all possible traffic. Close monitoring is done right from field level to Railway Ministry for smooth movement of freight traffic.

[*Translation*]

Minerals In Madhya Pradesh

2019. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has vast reserves of mineral resources;

(b) if so, whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of mines in the state;

(e) whether the Government propose to nationalise the mines in the state; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) As on going activities, Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts geological surveys and investigations in Madhya Pradesh.

During the last three years GSI identified reserves of low Silica dolomite in Sagar-Chhatarpur district; zinc ore in Betul district; Gold ore in Raigarh, Bastar and Raipur districts; Diamond bearing Kimberlite in Panna, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Raigarh, Bastar and Raipur districts; Bauxite in Raigarh district Molybdenum in Chhatarpur district; Tungsten ore in Raigarh and Betul districts; Base metals in Satna-Chhatarpur, Balaghat and Hoshangabad districts; Manganese ore in Balaghat district besides Granite and other dimensional stones in parts of Sagar, Panna, Chhatarpur, Mandla, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Betul districts.

(d) Various individuals/agencies are engaged in exploitation of minerals in the State. Further, any entrepreneur is free to exploit mineral resources in accordance with the provisions of MM(R&D) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder and the New Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India.

(e) Government of India have not received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to nationalise the mines in the State.

(f) Question does not arise.

Complaints Regarding Irregularities

2020. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of have received complaints regarding the irregularities in providing telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.