

### Allotment of HUDCO-Rohini Scheme

2267 SHRI A. VENKATESHI NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIG/LIG flats in Sector 21, 22, 23, 24 in Rohini. Delhi has been allotted without the provision of approached roads and electricity connections and the allottees were compelled to accept allotments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) DDA has reported that MIG/LIG flats in these sectors were allotted after receiving completion report from the Engineering Wing. The allottees were, however, not compelled to accept allotments.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Approach roads in these sectors are already available. Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) has target date to complete the electrification work by December, 1998.

### Losses in MEC

2268. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation (MEC) has been running in losses;

(b) if so, since when and the reason for the losses; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of Mineral Exploration Corporation (MEC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) has been incurring losses since 1991, due to the following reasons:—

(i) Reduction in contractual and promotional work availability commensurate with its capacity built-up over the years.

(ii) Drastic reduction in Government budgetary support to all public sector undertakings, especially to Coal India Ltd., who is one of the major clients of MECL.

(iii) In the liberalised scenario, a number of renowned international companies established their Indian outfits who are bidding for various jobs in the mineral sector including exploration work resulting in reduction of traditional business for MECL.

(iv) High proportions of wage bill compared to the total turn-over.

(v) Decrease in overall operational efficiency of the Company's.

(c) Following the recommendations made by an Expert Committee in 1995, the Government has been implementing a package for revival of MECL which included the administrative and financial restructuring of the company and improving its operational productivity. This has resulted in reducing the losses of the company significantly.

### Extension and Doubling of Railway Line

2269. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested that Union Government regarding extension of Tarakeswar rail line upto Bishnupur via Arambagh and double line between seoraphuli and Tarakeswar:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A request dt. 09.4.98 was received from the Minister of State-in-Charge, Library Services, Mass Education Extension Deptt. Government of West Bengal in this regard.

(c) A survey for extension of the line from Tarakeswar to Arambagh has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. Extension of the line upto Vishnupur can be considered if and after the line to Arambagh is taken up for construction, depending on the then traffic