

minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act which include both iron ore and manganese ore originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are incomplete and consequently, in such cases, State Government are asked to furnish complete information/ additional information for disposal.

31 mineral concessions including 20 mining leases of iron ore and manganese ore pertaining to the State of Orissa were disposed off by the Central Government during the year 1997-98. As on 20.7.1998 eight (8) cases for grant of mining lease are pending for approval of Central Government including 4 mining lease cases of manganese ore and iron ore.

[Translation]

#### **Fraudulent Recruitment in Army in M.P.**

5376. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of rupees are being extorted from the unemployed youths in Jabalpur, M.P. for recruiting them in the Army in connivance with some defence personnel;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken to check such immoral practices?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A case of a defence personnel who is alleged to have accepted money from a civilian for enrolment in the Army has been reported to the Government. The matter is under investigation.

[English]

#### **Increase of Passengers between Guwahati and Delhi**

5377. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of passengers have increased manifold between Guwahati and New Delhi in the recent years; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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) No, Sir. There

is only a slight increase in the number of passengers by 3.3% on an average, in last three years.

(b) In order to provide additional accommodation to passengers the loads of trains have been increased to feasible extent. The frequency of Rajdhani Express was also increased from once a week to thrice a week w.e.f 26.1.1996. Besides, special trains are also arranged during the summer holidays, festivals and other holiday seasons.

#### **Powers to Panchayati Raj in Orissa**

5378. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Government of Orissa has not given the total powers to the Zilla Parishad Member, Samity Member and Sarpanch for smooth running of Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps, the Government taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Article 243G of the Constitution of India reads:

"243G. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, subject to the conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to :

(a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;

(b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule."

Devolution of powers to the PRIs is the prerogative of the State Governments. The States/UTs have devolved power in varying degrees and the process is a continuing one. The Government is aware that total powers have not been devolved to the panchayati Raj institutions at various levels. The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment are persuading all the States/UTs to devolve powers to the PRIs as envisaged in the Constitution 73rd Amendment and Act 40 of 1996. This request has been recently reiterated in the conferences of Chief Ministers, State Ministers for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and State Secretaries for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj held by this Ministry. This Ministry has also constituted a

high level Task Force to continually monitor the progress of devolution of powers upon Panchayati Raj institutions.

#### **Crowd at Bangalore City Railway Station**

5379. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of trains are departing from and arriving at Bangalore City railway station daily; and
- (b) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid heavy crowds at the Bangalore City railway station?

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) At present, 38 pairs of daily and 8 pairs of nondaily trains are arriving/ departing from Bangalore.

(b) To avoid heavy crowds, stoppages of trains have been provided at other stations within Bangalore suburban limits, such as Bangalore cantonment, Bangalore East, Yeshwantpur, Malleswaram and Krishnarajapuram.

#### **Doubling of Kolar and Bangarpet Railway Line**

5380. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the doubling of Railway line between Kolar and Fangarpet is still pending;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed ?

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) No, Sir. Doubling of Kolar-Bangarpet is not a sanctioned work.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Development of Colonies in Agra**

5381. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Uttar Pradesh State Government has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to provide financial assistance for the Development of Basties (Colonies) in Agra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any financial assistance in this regard during each of the last three years; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No proposal has been received by the Union Government from Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding financial assistance for the development of Basties in Agra.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Rent Dues Towards MP**

5382. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge rent amount is outstanding against Members and Ex-Members of Parliament on account of the Government accommodation occupied by them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the date since when these arrears are pending; and
- (d) the steps the Government are taking to recover the dues with interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Cost of Production at R.S.P.**

5383. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of production per unit ton of steel prior to and after modernisation in Rourkela Steel Plant;
- (b) whether the production of steel by one labour is the lowest in Rourkela Steel Plant; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) A 19.25% reduction in the cost of production of Saleable Steel has been envisaged in the approved revised cost estimates (1992 Prices) of the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Modernisation project.

- (b) Among the four Integrated Steel Plants of SAIL, RSP's labour productivity is the lowest at present.
- (c) The main reasons for low productivity in RSP, inter-alia, include excess manpower and low utilisation of the production capacity, etc.

The remedial steps taken in this regard include restriction in recruitment, retraining and redeployment of