

Festival, Dol-Jatra, Kartika Nagha Purnima, Gangasagar Mela and Khumbhamela, a number of special trains run on this line carrying passengers. There is single track between Khurda Road and Puri, causing problem of adjustment of schedules and making it difficult to introduce additional trains. Doubling of this track on priority basis is therefore necessary.

As such, I request the Ministry of Railways to expedite the doubling of line between Khurda and Puri without any further delay.

(iv) Need for Construction of Railway Station of Bikaner

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN** (Barmer) : Sir, Bikaner is the divisional head quarters of the Northern Railway and occupies a significant place in strategic, historical and industrial terms. Its population is above 5 lakhs. But, unfortunately, due to the railway crossings at five places in the middle of the city, the residents of Bikaner have to experience much difficulties. Traffic is jammed and, therefore, commotion prevails for quite a long time. The railway crossing gates remain closed 40 to 50 times a day. Consequently, everybody, whether he is an office-goer, patient, doctor or businessman, is seriously affected.

Bikaner city is being connected with a broad-gauge railway line and a new railway track is under construction from Surat Garh to Bikaner; thus, a new broad gauge line is being established. Keeping these developments in view, the new railway station be set up at such a place where the number of railway crossings is minimised. So, the bridges also needs to be constructed as part of a permanent solution to the problem. The Railway Ministry is, therefore, requested to examine the abovementioned problem and take suitable measures, which it deems fit, for the redressal of public grievances.

12.19 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)**  
1984-85

**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—**  
Contd.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Shri Bishnu Prasad will continue his speech.

**SHRI BISHNU PRASAD** (Kaliabar) : Sir, the importance of the Ministry cannot be over-emphasized. The press, AIR, TV and films come within the purview of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry. These are the most important limbs of our democracy. The survival and strength of democracy depends on these most important organisations. They must help the people in their march towards their cherished goal of democracy, socialism and secularism. They are not only means of entertainment, but also means of information and communication. There was a time when we regarded this particularly the radio and TV as means of entertainment, but now they are means of entertainment only, they are means of information and knowledge. So, what is the basis purpose of this Ministry? The basic purpose of this Ministry is communication of information, ideas, news and views on different subjects. In other words, the responsibility of spreading knowledge on different fields and areas rests on these important organs of this Ministry. Now we must provide information not only to a limited numbers of people, but we must try to provide information to all our countrymen. And the present information provided to the people through the existing organs of the Ministry has become middle-class oriented information. But this is the time to find out the policy for providing information to the majority of our countrymen so they can be equipped with the day to day information and knowledge and then only they can help in the developmental programmes taken up by the Government. I understand that with the help of