

(d) The details of coaches manufactured by different coach factories during the last three years are given below:

	ICF	RCF	Jessops	BEML
93-94	1038	1025	61	375
94-95	780	775	15	9
95-96	890	690	33	139

**Stoppage of New Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani Express at Anantapur**

\*2206. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have limited stoppage of New Delhi-Bangalore Rajdhani Express; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for stoppage of the said train at Anantapur instead of Dharmavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Rajdhani Express already has limited number of stoppages.

(b) No, Sir.

**Issue of Complimentary Card Passes to Freedom Fighters**

\*2207. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free Travel Cards are issued to freedom fighters and other persons for free travel in Railways;

(b) if so, the guidelines therefor;

(c) the details of Free Travel Cards issued since January 1995; and

(d) whether any estimation has been made about the extent of loss caused to Railways on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, cost of travel on complimentary card passes issued to Freedom Fighters is borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) and (c) Number of complimentary card passes issued under various categories ask on 7.3.97 are as under:

- (i) Freedom Fighters (cost : 47,849 borne by the Ministry of Home Affairs)
- (ii) Individual and : 430 organisations at the discretion of MR as on 7.3.97
- (iii) Ex. MR/MOS(R)/ : 12 DMR
- (iv) Ex. Members of : 1670 Parliament
- (v) Arjuna Awardees/ : 337 Olympic Medalists/ Asian and Commonwealth Gold Medalists
- (vi) Gallantry Awardees : 467 (Defence) i.e. winners of Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra .
- (vii) Gallantry Awardees : 243 (Police) i.e. winners of President's Police Medal for Gallantry and Police Medal for Gallantry
- (viii) Presidents/Secretaries : 46 of National Sports Federations of India

Complimentary Card Pass is issued, in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, to Freedom Fighters of widow of a Freedom Fighter drawing pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme from the Central Revenues.

In regard to category (ii) above, complimentary card passes are issued at the personal discretion of the Minister of Railways to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational and welfare activities of national importance. Other categories are self explanatory.

(d) Since passes are complimentary in nature, the cost thereof is not computed excepting those passes issued to Freedom Fighters.

#### **Closing of level crossings**

2208. DR. RANBIR SINGH:

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close 536 level crossings to minimise considerable hazard to both the rail and road users to improve safety standards of Railways;

(b) if so, the names of such crossings, State and Territory-wise, with names of Zonal Railways covering these crossings;

(c) whether some of such crossings are being manned by Chowkidars at present;

(d) if so, the details of such manned and unmanned crossings;

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to implement their decision; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) State and Territory-wise details of 536 level crossings are not maintained. Railway Zone-wise details are given below:

Central Railway	—	46
Eastern Railway	—	19
Northern Railway	—	85
North Eastern Railway	—	93

Northeast Frontier Railway	—	103
Southern Railway	—	117
South Central Railway	—	37
South Eastern Railway	—	8
Western Railway	—	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>536</b>

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Manned — 142, Unmanned — 394

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) 65 level crossing roads will be passed through existing nearby bridges, 351 level crossings will be linked to nearby level crossings. 120 level crossings will be closed, since road traffic is either absent or very meagre which does not justify their continuance.

#### **News item Regarding Diversion of Train to Hubli**

2209. DR. MOHAN BABU:

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR  
RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "PM seeks diversion of train to Hubli" appearing in the "Indian Express", dated the 8th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure that the railway routes are developed according to public demands and not influenced by any other consideration?

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

(b) Though some public representations were received for diversion of Chennai-Mumbai train via Hubli, no suggestion has been received from the Prime Minister. These were examined and not found feasible.

(c) Does not arise.