

(b) the extent of shortage of porters at Bangalore, Mangalore and Mysore railway stations as on 30th June, 2009, with reference to the sanctioned strength alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation so that the passengers are not exploited by the porters in connivance with railway staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The sanctioned strength and shortage of licensed porters at Bangalore, Mangalore and Mysore railway stations are as under:—

Name of stations	Sanctioned strength of LPs	Shortage
Bangalore	300	51
Mangalore	20	10
Mysore	71	38

The process of engaging fresh licensed porters has already been initiated and availability of licensed porters is ensured through redeployment within the Division. To overcome the problem of exploitation by the porters, regular checks are conducted at stations. The badges of the licensed porters involved in such activities are impounded/suspended.

Upgradation of Talcher station

2402. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue collected from Talcher station in each of the last three years by the East Coast Railway and its position among the stations in collection of revenue; and

(b) the reasons why Government has not upgraded it to a model station so far, in view of the importance of the station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The revenue collected from Talcher station during the last three years are as under:—

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Revenue collected (Rs. in crore)	1051.26	1142.23	1292.69

The earnings of Talcher station is the highest amongst all the stations of East Coast Railway.

(b) Talcher railway station was identified as Modern station during 2007-08 for the purpose of modernization and given a face-lift. Following modernization works have been taken in hand and planned for completion by 31st August, 2009:—

(i) Provision of multi-line Train Indication Board;

- (ii) Provision of five single-line Train Indication Board;
- (iii) Coach Guidance Board;
- (iv) Digital Master Slave Clock;
- (v) Touch Screen System;
- (vi) Auto Announcement System;
- (vii) Inter Voice Response System (IVRS);
- (viii) Provision of High Mast in circulating area;
- (ix) Improvement to lighting, fannage and signage facility and
- (x) Provision of purified cold drinking water system.

Flag stations at Tangra and Beliaghata

2403. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to construct flag stations at Tangra and Beliaghata under Sealdah division of Eastern Railway; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There are demands for opening of three halt stations at Beliaghata, Tangra and Kamardanga between Park Circus and Sir Gurudas Banerjee Halt under Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway. Since the distance between Park Circus and Sir Gurudas Banerjee Halt is only 3.75 kms, it is not operationally feasible to provide halt stations at all the three locations in such a short stretch.

Halting of trains

2404. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to halt Nilgiri and Kovai Expresses at Sangagiri station which is a very old station and which would help the people of the area immensely;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Railways received any demand from the people in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is no proposal at present to provide halt of Nilgiri Express and Kovai Express at Sankaridurg.

(b) to (d) Proposal for stoppage of Nilgiri Express and Kovai Express at Sankaridurg has been examined but not found feasible due to lack of commercial justification.