

Book stalls at railway stations

2620. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to take over the management and operation of book stalls at railway station platforms from Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to be implemented?

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

(b) Ministry of Railways have taken a decision to transfer back the operation of bookstalls to zonal railways from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The implementation of transfer of bookstalls will be done gradually since it involves the transfer of agreements, etc.

Railway Projects

2621. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Mancherla-Nalgonda (92 Kms.) Railway Project; Cuddappa-Bangalore (255 Kms.) Railway Project; and Kakinada-Pittapuram (21.5 Kms.) Railway Project, indicating the progress made thereon till date, project-wise;

(b) the time likely to be taken to complete the above said projects; and

(c) the reasons for delay in completing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Macherla-Nalgonda (92 Kms): Final location survey at revised location has been taken up.

Cuddappa-Bangalore (255 Kms.): The construction of line between Cuddapah-Bangalore is proposed to be taken up in five phases. The work for Cuddapah-Pendlimarri section has already been taken up.

Kakinada-Pittapuram (21.5 Kms): Based on the commitment given by State Government to provide land free of cost, rate of return has been reworked out and the proposal is under examination.

(b) and (c) No time frame has been set for completion of these projects. Projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

Irregularities into Dedicated Freight Corridor Project

†2622. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

financial irregularities into Rs. Fifty thousand crore Dedicated Freight Corridor Project;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether CBI has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating irregularities in payment of compensation for land acquisition for the construction of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor in Vadodara region.

(b) A regular case No. RC029 2012A 0001 dated 02.01.2012 has been registered on the basis of preliminary enquiry.

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

Better telecommunication service in Assam

2623. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry can promise better network of BSNL than that of private telecommunication providers in Assam;
- (b) the circumstances that have cropped up and are hindrance to provide better facilities to the BSNL customers; and
- (c) the steps taken to redress such grievances of the customers and for better telecommunication services in the North-Eastern Region and more particularly in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) based Mobile as well as landline Telephone Services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the North Eastern Region including Assam are, in general, working satisfactorily and meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India). The services are also, in general, comparable to that of Private Telecom Service Providers.

However, frequent Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) cuts due to road widening works/repairs undertaken by State Government/National Highway Authorities, non-availability of uninterrupted commercial electricity supply and non availability of diesel in some rural and remote areas, are the main constraints in providing better telecom services.

Salient measures being taken by BSNL to enhance QoS for mobile and