

(iii) Common user facilities like CCTV, display boards etc. are provided to all airlines free of cost.

(b) With the repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 the domestic airmarket has been thrown open to both public and private sector to promote competition.

Procedure Adopted for Filing of FIRs by Passengers

966. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted for filing of FIRs by passengers in case their belongings are stolen during the Railway journey; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check entry of luggage lifters operating in reserved coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The passengers desirous of filing FIR may do so by filling up the prescribed form available with train conductors, TTEs, Guard, Coach Attendants, Police escorts etc. for which an acknowledgement is given by the concerned Railway official. The Railway official then hands over the same to the next Government Railway Police Station or the Station Superintendent of the Station where the train stops. Passengers are not required to break their journey for this purpose.

(b) The following measures have been adopted :

- (I) Coach conductors/TTEs on duty on the train coaches have been instructed to ensure strictly the entry of bonafide passengers only, in reserved coaches
- (II) They have also been directed to ensure proper latching of the doors/windows/ vestibules during night hours.
- (III) Escorting by Government Railway Police of the long distance trains during night hours has been introduced in crime prone areas
- (IV) Instant Action Groups have been introduced on some selected trains for immediate redressal of grievances of the travelling public on the spot
- (V) Frequent announcements on Public Address System at all major/junction stations are being made in order to caution the passengers to report to Railway authority/ Police on duty about entry of any stranger/ unauthorised person in the reserved coaches.

[Translation]

Tourist Places of International Importance

967. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourist places of international importance in the country.

(b) whether the Both Gaya tourist place in Bihar has of international importance; and

(c) if so, the facilities provided by the Union Government to tourists visiting the tourist places of international importance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) and (b) There are several tourist places of international importance like Agra, Ahmedabad, Ajanta-Ellora, Bodhgaya, Mumbai, Calcutta, Darjeeling, Delhi, Goa, Jaipur, Jaisalmar, Jodhpur, Kanyakumari, Khajuraho, Kullu-Manali, Chennai, Madurai, Mamallapuram, Mysore, Puri-Konarak, Pushkar, Rameshwaran, Shimla, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Varanasi, etc.

(c) The development of tourist facilities at tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, financial assistance is provided by the Central Government on the basis of specific proposals received by them. The projects assisted by the Central Government at Bodh Gaya are the following :

- (1) Toilet and drinking water facilities
- (2) Cafeteria
- (3) Public conveniences (Sulabh Shouchalaya)
- (4) Tourist Reception Centre

In addition the project assisted by the Overseas Economic and Cooperation Fund of Japan for the development of the Buddhist circuit of UP and Bihar has the following components of work at Bodh Gaya :

- (i) Landscaping
- (ii) Water supply scheme
- (iii) Electricity supply scheme

[English]

4 V-SAT's for Ladakh Region

968. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 4 V-SAT's sanctioned in the current financial year for installation in 4 remote Sub-Divisional Headquarters of PADUM, DISKIT, NYOMA and SANKU of Ladakh region;

(b) whether the Government has diverted these equipments to some other States in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be installed in Ladakh region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Two VSATs have been sanctioned for installation at PADUM and NYOMA.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of reply given under Part (b) above.

(d) VSAT at PADUM has been installed. Satellite earth station is already working at Thosar for Diskit.

VASAT at Nyoma and Sanku is likely to be installed during 1997-98 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

Supply of Pure Quality of Coal by CIL to SAIL

969. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated October 17, 1996 captioned "SAIL not to pay for CIL's inefficiency";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that several public sector steel plants have been forced to close down production due to the price and quality of coal being supplied by CIL;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the plants which have decided to close down?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Promotion of Tourism in States

970. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme-wise amount provided by the Union Government to the States during the current year;

(b) whether the hilly States have sent any schemes for the promotion of tourism; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) to (c). During the current financial year the

Department of Tourism has identified projects amounting to Rs. 3389.43 lakhs for Financial Assistant's to State/ Union Territory Govts. including the Hilly States. The funds to the State Governments are released on receipt of detailed project proposals.

[English]

Expenditure Incurred on Gauge Conversion

971. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state : the total expenditure incurred on conversion of gauges, providing new lines and additional trains during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : The details are as under :

	New Lines	Gauge Conversion
93-94	- 213.41 crs.	815.13 crs.
94-95	- 193.61 crs.	1180.29 crs.
95-96	- 209.00 crs.	1174.97 crs.
Total	616.02 crs.	3170.39 crs.

Expenditure incurred on introduction of trains is not maintained.

Railways do not maintain information on expenditure incurred Statewise.

Acute Shortage of Personnel in I.A.

972. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Pilots, Commanders, Instructors in the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to overcome the shortage of commanders :

- Appointment of contractual Pilots.
- Reappointment of Pilots who had earlier left Indian Airlines.
- New agreement for revision in career pattern, providing for swifter command/conversion training.
- Appointment of B-737 Commanders from the open market.
- Promotion of Pilots to Executive cadre, resulting in increase in flying hours, flexibility.