

Extension of Broad Gauge Railway Line upto Dibrugarh

7550. **SHRI PARAG CHALIHA** : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the long standing demand of the people of Assam for extension of the Broad Gauge railway line upto Dibrugarh town in Upper Assam and if so, what steps have been taken to meet this demand ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : For extension of the broad gauge line upto Dibrugarh, a preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic survey has recently been completed for an alternative BG route connecting Nowgong, Jorhat and Sibsagar. Another survey for straight conversion of the existing MG railway line from Gauhati to Dibrugarh via Tinsukia into BG is in progress. A decision about extension of BG line beyond Gauhati will be taken after the survey report for straight conversion is also received and scrutinised, subject to availability of resources.

Passengers Handled and Foreign Exchange Earned by Indian Airlines

7551. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI** : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what have been the yearly figures of passengers carried by the Indian Airlines during the last three years ; and

(b) the details of the foreign exchange earned yearly during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The number of passengers carried are given below :

	Number of passengers carried (figures in lakhs)
i) 1982-83	68.47
ii) 1983-84	76.69
iii) 1984-85	85.09

(b) The Foreign Exchange earned is given below :

Foreign Exchange earned (Rs. in crores)

i) 1982-83	119.58
ii) 1983-84	137.03
iii) 1984-85	147.83

Collaboration with Georgia Institute of Technology U.S.A.

7552. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER** : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S.A. has come forward to have a collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in selected areas of science ; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government to explore the possibility of tie-ups between these two Institutes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Drug Testing Laboratories

7553. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA** : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what assistance is proposed to be given by the Union Health Ministry to States for the purpose of setting up drug testing laboratories ; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no scheme of Central Assistance to the State Governments for the purpose of setting up Drug Testing Laboratories.