

(a) whether Government propose to provide international status to Nagpur Airport in the near future;

(b) if so, when and the details of facilities likely to be provided at the Nagpur Airport; and

(c) the other steps taken by Government to modernise the Nagpur Airport?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work on the installation of Air Routes Surveillance Radar at Nagpur Airport is now in progress. The National Airports Authority has further planned to modernise the Nagpur Airport by installing an Automatic Message Switch System and development of the runway, apron and terminal building to make it suitable for Boeing 747 operation.

Casual Employees in Railways

66. SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casual employees in the Railways during each of the last three years and the current year and also the number of dismissed in the same period;

(b) how many of the dismissed ones, were re-employed after some time;

(c) whether Government have received representations from Trade Unions regarding the problem of casual employees; and

(d) if so, the salient points and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). The strength of casual labour on Railways during the last four years is as under:

(in Lakhs)

As on 1.4.1986	1.4.1987	1.4.1988	1.4.1989
2.16	2.05	2.02	1.92

(Figures are approximate)

Presumably reference is to cases of retrenchment of casual labour for want of work and their re-engagement on reavailability of work. Information in this regard excluding those casual labour who are engaged only for a limited period for seasonal work like monsoon patrolling, summer watermen etc. for the years 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 is being collected from the Railway Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main demands are that all casual labour should be absorbed in regular employment, retirement benefits should be made available to casual labour in full and the benefit of Group Insurance Scheme should also be given to casual labour.

The position in regard to these demands is that casual labour continue to be absorbed

in regular employment against normal vacancies arising from time to time depending upon eligibility and suitability. In addition about 52,000 posts have been created under the decasualisation scheme to absorb casual labour. It is, however, not possible to absorb all casual labour straight-way regardless of availability of vacancies and other relevant considerations.

Casual Labour are entitled to pensionary benefits on absorption in regular employment whereafter half the period of employment after attaining temporary status is reckoned for pensionary benefits. It has not been found feasible to liberalise these provisions.

The Group Insurance Scheme for Central Government Employees is applicable only to employees in regular employment. It does not apply to casual labour

Report of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Central incentive schemes for industrial development of backward areas

67. SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether consideration of the recommendations made by the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted to review and revise the Central incentive schemes for the industrial development of backward areas in its report submitted in December 1986 has been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the salient recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Inter-Ministerial Committee's recommendations inter-alia deal with:-

- (a) Establishment of growth centres.
- (b) Identification of backward districts.
- (c) Revision of existing Central Incentive Scheme.

The Government has taken the following decisions which have a bearing on the main recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee:

- (i) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1.10.1988;
- (ii) A scheme to set up 100 new growth centres all over the country endowed with necessary infrastructural facilities in respect of power, water, telecommunication and banking has been announced.

The recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee will be examined in the light of decisions already taken.

Jaldhara Scheme

68. SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ISI marked energy efficient electric pumpsets installed during 1988-89 under the Jaldhara Scheme against the targeted number and the number of pumpsets actually energised so far;

(b) the State-wise, number of marginal and poor farmers in the drought prone areas who have been benefited from this scheme; and

(c) the total amount spent on the scheme, so far?