

*[English]***Shortage of Aircraft with Indian Airlines**

4632. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is acute shortage of aircraft in the Indian Airlines; and

(b) Whether the Government propose to introduce Airbus A-320 at Calicut airport to meet the passengers requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines is operating Airbus A-320 aircraft to and from Calicut with effect from 1st May, 1991.

*[Translation]***Release of LPG Connections on Ministers Recommendations**

4633. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of LPG connections released on the recommendations of the Union Ministers since January 1989 to June 1991, minister-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Such information has not been maintained.

*[English]***Expansion and Modernisation of Digboi Oil Refinery**

4634. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to modernise and expand the Digboi oil refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The modernisation proposal was approved by the Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 143.74 crores in June, 1989. Presently, Indian Oil Corporation is preparing revised cost estimate.

*[Translation]***Conversion of Katihar-Jogvani Line**

4635. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Katihar-Jogvani meter gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) whether a survey has already been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) As per the Survey conducted in 1984, the estimated cost of conversion of the 107 km section was Rs. 30.12

crores at the then price level with a negative financial return ((—) 8.5%). The present day cost would be around Rs. 65 crores.

[English]

Level Crossing and Bridges in Kerala

4636. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for opening of new level crossing exclusively at the cost of the Railways;

(b) whether there is demand in Kerala for increasing the number of level crossings and construction of over-bridges and widening of the existing over-bridges:

(c) the number of proposals received during last one year to open the level crossing entirely at the cost of the Railways; and

(d) the number of proposals approved out of those ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Railways provide new level crossings, exclusively at their own cost only at the time of laying of new Railway lines as also during a further period of 10 years, after the line is commissioned to traffic, in consultation with the State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of New flights by Indian Airlines

4637. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has expanded its network recently;

(b) if so, the details of new places brought under new network:

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce new air services between Delhi and some important cities of Rajasthan:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the date from which the new flights are scheduled to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Between May, 1991 and now, Indian Airlines has reintroduced its services to Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Allahabad and Gwalior. Effective August 3, 1991, a twice weekly B-737 service has also been introduced on Bombay-Ahmedabad-Indore route.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines has a proposal to introduce a service between Delhi and Jaisalmer. It also has a proposal to operate a service between Calcutta and Jaipur via Varanasi. A second service on the Delhi-Bombay sector via Jodhpur is also being planned. Subject to availability of aircraft capacity, these services are planned for the Winter Schedule of 1991.