

(ii) Amount allotted upto 31-3-90= Rs. 43.15 crores.

Booking Counters at Madras Central Railway Station

108. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening of more booking counters at Madras Central railway station to avoid overcrowding at the existing counters?

(b) if so, when they are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Adequate number of booking counters are already available at Madras Central Station. Additional booking counters are opened whenever necessary to clear the rush.

Performance of paper mills

109. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study of the performance of paper mills;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that some of the paper mills have fallen sick; and

(c) if so, the details of such paper mills both in the public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Development Council for Paper, Pulp and Allied Industries, constituted under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951, reviews the performance of paper Mills from time to time.

(b) and (c). According to available information, 77 paper units out of a total of 305 units are not reporting production.

Airbus A-320 Planes

110. SHRI R.N. RAKESH:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA:
SHRI P.A. ANTONY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news items captioned "All Airbus-320 planes grounded" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 19 February, 1990;

(b) if so, the full details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the financial loss suffered by the Indian Airlines on account of non-operation of these planes;

(d) the alternative arrangements made to provide air services to the passengers; and

(e) when the aforesaid planes are likely to be put on operation again?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Considering the deep apprehension in the mind of the travelling public, the Government appointed a high powered Technical Committee under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal S.S. Ramdas to evaluate the state of preparedness of the Indian Airlines for safe operation of the A 320 aircraft. Pending the submission of an interim report by the Committee, the operations of the A