

(c) if not, the other measures proposed to be taken to meet the situation arising out of acute shortage of such personnel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). To meet the existing and unforeseen shortage of commanders, the Government has permitted Indian Airlines to appoint superannuated Commanders having current licences, on contract, for a period of two years and upto the age to 60 years.

[English]

Trans Asian Railway Network

2069. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of Trans Asian Railway network; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The proposed Trans Asian Railway is being considered by UN-ESCAP under its Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development Project. Its main objective is to provide basic rail link from South East Asia to Europe. It is envisaged that the network would also connect land locked countries with main parts in neighbouring territories by extending railways.

Presently, UN-ESCAP has undertaken three feasibility studies. Specific project proposals have not been formulated and no target date can be suggested.

[Translation]

Tire at Delhi Airport

2070. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of fire have damaged Government property at various airports in the country especially in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the damage of property, State-wise/airport-wise;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in these fire incidents;

(d) if so, the inquiry-wise details thereof; and

(e) the safety measure taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). During the period 1994 the following fire incidents took place at various airports in

the country:-

1994 - No incidents.

1995 - One incident -

Vayudoot Office in Terminal 18 of Mumbai airport caught fire on 18.2.95. The damage was estimated at Rs.3.02 lakhs. Cause of fire was cable fire.

1996 - Three incidents -

(i) On 1.2.96 there was fire incident at Tiruchirapalli airport in Tamil Nadu in which two oil tanks of IOC and oil shed were gutted. Loss to Airports Authority of India and IOC were estimated at Rs.70,000 and Rs.2.5 lakhs respectively.

(ii) On 19.8.96 there was fire at Guwahati airport due to electric short circuit. Loss to Airport Authority of India was estimated at Rs.2000/-.

(iii) On 30.10.96, Terminal 1A of Delhi airport was completely destroyed due to fire. Loss of property to Airports Authority of India is estimated at Rs.11 crores. An expert Committee is investigating into the cause of the fire.

(e) A one time check and inspection of the fire fighting arrangements including the fire alarm system at all terminals of the airports has been conducted. Fire detection and alarm system, fire extinguisher, wet return and fire hydrant system and fire dampers in the return air duct of A/C system have been provided at the terminal buildings.

Development of Children Films

2071. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the development of children films in the country is not proper and satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The films meant for children, catering as they do to a specific age group, have a limited market and hence tend to be produced in limited numbers.

(c) The Children's Film Society, India (now called the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People or N'CYP in short) has been set up for production of children's films in various languages. In 1995-96 it was given a grant-in-aid of Rs.160 lakhs under plan for production of children's films. N'CYP also organises an International Children's Film Festival