

(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

every alternate year, inviting outstanding children's films from all over the world. Films certified as children's films by the Central Board of Film Certification are considered by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for grant of exemption from entertainment tax. Government also gives an award to the best children's film every year in the National Film Festival.

Inadequate Telephone Facilities in Maharashtra

2072. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts of Maharashtra where telephone facilities are inadequate;

(b) whether any proposal for expansion of communication facilities in those districts are under consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). There is waiting list in all the districts of Maharashtra and the details of waiting list for the telephone connections, district-wise as on 31.10.96 are given in Annexure. There are proposals to expand communication facilities in all the districts of Maharashtra. The targets for providing telephone connection district-wise during 1996-97 are also given in Annexure.

STATEMENT

Names of districts in Maharashtra with waiting list for telephone connections and the target for providing telephones during the current year (1996-97)

Sl.No.	Name of Districts	Waiting List as on 31.10.96	Target for 1996-97
1	2	3	4
1.	Jalgaon	12562	5800
2.	Raigad	6548	7000
3.	Kalyan	65172	36000
4.	Ratnagiri	6018	1800
5.	Sindhudurg	3083	1500
6.	Sangali	12787	7000
7.	Satara	7626	5800
8.	Solapur	9597	8800
9.	Nagpur	16448	13000
10.	Beed	2907	1700
11.	Jalna	1631	700
12.	Latur	3676	3000
13.	Osmanabad	1514	1200
14.	Parbhani	1634	1600

1	2	3	
15.	Ahmednagar	14669	9200
16.	Aurangabad	8045	7600
17.	Nanded	2439	2700
18.	Nasik	26646	15300
19.	Dhule	8359	4700
20.	Pune	54808	39500
21.	Akola	3658	3900
22.	Amravati	4815	3700
23.	Bhandara	1793	1100
24.	Buldhana	2132	1000
25.	Kolhapur	12761	4400
26.	Chandrapur	2912	2500
27.	Gadhchiroli	412	(262)*
28.	Wardha	1715	1500
29.	Yeotmal	3273	1000

Note :- * Out of 2500 of Chandrapur SSA.

[English]

Survey for Talcher-Sukinda Railway Line

2073. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted on the proposed Talcher-Sukinda railway line in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to construct that line; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey report is under finalisation in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the Project jointly with Planning Commission will be possible once the results of the survey are finalised.

(c) As per the survey report, the estimate cost is Rs.245.58 crores.

Introduction of New Trains from Rajasthan

2074. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demands have been made by the Government of Rajasthan for introducing new trains from Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether some of their demands have been examined; and