

(a) what was the targeted growth rate for the traffic of Air India during the Sixth Plan;

(b) whether the same has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) what is the growth rate target of Air India for the Seventh Plan; and

(e) steps being taken to increase the tourist traffic of Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) During the mid term appraisal of the Sixth Five Year plan in May, 1982, Air India projected an average annual growth of traffic at 9.8%, but this level could not be achieved mainly due to increase in fuel prices,

(d) Air India had initially projected an average traffic growth of 8% during Seventh Five Year plan period. Modified projections of traffic vary between 4% to 6%.

(e) In order to increase the tourist traffic to India, Air India, has *inter-alia*, taken the following steps :—

(i) introduction of special excursion fares both for individual and group traffic.

(ii) persuading other airlines and various hotels to file lower "off peak" fares and tariffs,

(iii) organising familiarisation tours for travel agents and tour operators,

(iv) organising annual tours for travel writers, journalists and other media personnel to various tourist centres in India in collaboration with Government of India Tourist offices.

(v) sponsoring T.V. Teams and Film Companies from various countries to film selected tourist centres with a view to projecting various

aspects such as hotel facilities, tourist infrastructure etc.

(vi) participating in organising Tourism Seminars and Food Festivals abroad in collaboration with leading hotels.

(vii) organising Tourism Seminars in India and bringing Tour Operators to destinations such as Goa, Kashmir, Ladakh and South India with a view to generating traffic to these areas.

(viii) promoting low cost stopover tours in collaboration with ITDC (India Tourism Development Corporation) and HCI (Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.) to attract tourists who would otherwise overfly India, and

(ix) organising special events such as the Himalayan mountaineering and car rally, hang gliding and river running.

Construction of Silchar-Jiribam Railway Line

627- SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) progress made in the construction of the Silchar-Jiribam Railway line;

(b) whether Government had indicated earlier that the line would be commissioned in 1986; and

(c) if so, reasons for the delay in the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) the progress of construction upto January, 1986 is 33%.

(b) The tentative target for completion of the project was indicated as 1986, subject to availability of full land by December '83 and adequate availability of funds.

(c) The progress of construction has been affected by delay in handing over of land to the Railway and also by the constraint of resources. Only about 50% land was made available by March '84 and the balance in 1984-85.

Fund allocation to combat blindness

628. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the amount proposed to be spent for improving availability vitamin 'A' and other dietary deficiencies etc. to combat blindness?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : Vitamin 'A' deficiency among children can lead to blindness. A prophylaxis programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency is being implemented. Supplementary feeding programme for pre-school children is aimed at improving dietary status of children. During 1986-87 an amount of Rs. 140 lakhs is proposed to be spent on the prophylaxis programme to prevent blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency.

Computer education in schools

629. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA :
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for introduction of computers in schools during Seventh Plan period has been finalised;

(b) if so, main features thereof; and

(c) whether schemes have been launched to manufacture software for educational programmes and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND

CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) Although the Ministry of Human Resource Development would like to cover a large number of secondary/higher secondary schools under the computer project, since no outlay has been earmarked for this project in VII plan allocations, the exact number will be decided on year-to-year basis depending upon the availability of funds and as a result of the evaluation of the pilot project.

(c) A frame-work for the development of software for the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) Project has been developed by NCERT along with specification for software programming and documentation. Ten software packages have been developed indigenously for use in participating schools.

Improvement in DTC bus services matching fare hike

630. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Delhi Transport Corporation to bring about improvement in its bus service matching the recent fare hike;

(b) whether there is any proposal for introduction of pass system on the pattern of Railways to regular office goers on concessional rates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is the constant endeavour of the Corporation to make overall improvement in its city bus services.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is under consideration at present. However, the DTC has its own system of issuing concessional passes to various categories of commuters, and it issues the following types of passes :—