

Oman, U.A.E., Bahrain and Saudi Arabian are presently not permitting flights over their airspace for operation of air services into and out of Israel. For Air India's operations to Israel, a shorter route is available over Saudi Arabia. Although the question of overflight permission was taken up with the Saudi Arabian Government, this has not been granted so far.

[English]

Regularisation of Samta Express

287. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations/requests for regularisation of Samta Express from thrice weekly, provision of 3rd AC coach and pantry car;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on such representations/requests; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be regularised and other provisions will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) and (d). Pantry car on 8543/8544 Samta Express is being provided shortly. Deployment of AC 3-tier coach on this train is technically not feasible as the train is running with Vacuum Brake rakes whereas AC 3-tier coaches are having Air Brake System. One AC 2nd sleeper coach has, however, been provided on this train from 2.10.96. Daily running of the train is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Peripheral Works to Private Sector

288. SHRI CHITTA BASU

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways have since been given certain "Peripheral Works" to the private sector; and

(b) if so, details of the peripheral works handed over to the private sector till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Only off-line activities like new catering services, marketing and management of tourist trains and operation of cloak rooms etc. have been opened for private sector participation.

[Translation]

Circuit to the Detective Agencies

289. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the terms and conditions of the tender of cellular, there has been a provision to provide circuit to the Detective Agencies of the country on main Switching Centre in each city or circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the cellular companies have given their consent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the names of the companies which have not given their consent; and

(f) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Cellular Service being provided by the Companies who have been granted licences for the same, is governed by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per the provision in section 5 (2) of the Act, the licensee is required to provide necessary facilities to the designated authorities of Central/State Governments for interception of messages passing through his network.

Section 5 (2) of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 reads as under :

"On the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety, the Central Govt. or a State Govt. or any officer specially authorised in their behalf by the Central Govt. or a State Govt. may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offense for reasons to be recorded by the order, direct that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted or shall be intercepted or detained or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order an officer thereof mentioned on the order : provided that press messages intended to be published in India of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this subsection."

(c) to (f). All the licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are governed by the provisions mentioned at (a) and (b) above.