

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : An amount of Rs.8.91 Crores has been paid to the Kith and Kin of the persons killed/injured in train accidents during the last three years.

Flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad

1942. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in Saurashtra region of Gujarat, there is only one Airport, i.e.: Rajkot;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to introduce flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad and vice-versa;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. There are four airports belonging to Airports Authority of India in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat located at Bhavnagar, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot and one civil enclave at Jamnagar.

(b) to (d). NEPC Airlines is operating a daily flight on sector Delhi-Rajkot via Mumbai. Delhi is airlinked with Ahmedabad with two daily flights by Indian Airlines and one daily flight by jet Airways direct between Delhi and Ahmedabad and three weekly flights by Indian Airlines via Jaipur.

[Translation]

Abolition of Contract System

1943. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to abolish contract system for cleanliness at various railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such railway stations, location-wise in the country, particularly in Western Railway;

(c) whether the Government have made any alternative arrangement for cleanliness at these railway stations or considering any proposal to appoint scavengers at these railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the names of railway stations where permanent/temporary scavengers are appointed; and

(e) the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) to (e). Railways propose to undertake cleanliness of stations departmentally. For this, various

steps like filling up of vacancies of safaiwalas, introduction of "Pay & Use" toilets Scheme, use of modern equipments, etc. will be undertaken.

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As on 1.12.96 at 96 stations, cleanliness work had been entrusted to private parties. Of these, 24 stations are on Western Railway, the names of which are as under:-

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Surat | 13. Bandra Terminus |
| 2. Vikramgarh Alot | 14. Ramganj Mandi |
| 3. Bhawani Mandi | 14. Morak |
| 4. Lakheri | 15. Indergarh |
| 5. Gangapur City | 16. Kota Jn |
| 6. Shri Mahavirji | 17. Hindaun City |
| 7. Bayana | 18. Fatehpur Sikri |
| 8. Anta | 19. Dahid |
| 9. Thalera | 20. Jalindri |
| 10. Upramal | 21. Shampur |
| 11. Mandalgarh | 22. Baraundri |
| 12. Parsoli | 24. Bassi-Berissal |

The contracts will not be renewed after their expiry.

[English]

Modernisation of Exchanges in Gujarat/Maharashtra

1944. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electronic/electro-mechanical Exchanges set up, so far in the country, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra district-wise, exchange-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such new Exchanges during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mica Reserves in Bihar

1945. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of mica reserves in Bihar, location-wise;

- (b) whether the mica reserves are declining;
 (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the steps taken by the Government to set-up mica-based industries?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) According to the tentative estimates of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the mica reserves in Bihar as on 1.4.90 are given as under:-

(Unit: Kg.)

DISTRICT	RECOVERABLE RESERVES
Giridih	463,480
Hazaribagh	929,490
Nawada	12,161,070
Bihar (total)	13,554,040

(b) and (c). The production of mica from the identified reserves is a continuous process and as such the resources are declining.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Production of IISCO

1946. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to cut down the production at the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) SAIL do not propose to cut down the production at IISCO.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Inconvenience to Passengers due to Dislocation of Rail Traffic

1947. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to dislocation of Rail traffic between Gudur/Nellore and Madras, passengers travelling to north from Vijayawada section have been subjected to lot of inconvenience;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce superfast trains between Vijayawada-New Delhi, Vijayawada-Lucknow etc; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, train services to the North including Delhi have since been restored.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Direct Railway Link to Chandigarh with Major Cities of Punjab

1948. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, has not been linked by rail even with the major cities of Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide railway link with Chandigarh from all major cities of Punjab;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Chandigarh is linked by rail to all major cities in Punjab via Ambala Cantt.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Construction of a new line between Rajpura and Chandigarh via Sambhu-Lalru has been taken up which will provide a more direct connection between Chandigarh and other major cities of Punjab. This link will reduce distance to Chandigarh by 23 Km. from all Stations in Punjab and also save engine reversal time of 20 minutes. The work is targetted for completion in December 1998.

(e) Does not arise.

Jammu Keshwat Srinagar Air Services

1949. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for Jammu-Keshwat-Srinagar and Srinagar-Rajouri-Jammu air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also helicopter service for Gurez (Baramulla) and Tandgader in (Kupwara); and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?