

[English]

Target of Expansion**High Quality Air Transport Services**

1958. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has great potential as a tourist destination;

(b) whether lack of adequate and high quality air transport services has blunted India's potential for tourism development and growth;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to improve frequency and quality of air services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Improvement of air transport services is a continuous process which involves huge investments for fleet acquisition, construction of airports and other infrastructure facilities.

(d) Opening of the domestic sector to private airlines has injected an element of competition in aviation industry and in-turn has improved the frequency and quality of air services in the country. Indian Airlines has increased its capacity deployment by 15% and taken steps to improve the quality of services both on ground and in the air. Air India is also taking steps to improve its product, image and on-time performance to attract more passengers and to improve revenue. New destinations have been added in the recent past to improve passenger satisfaction. Airports Authority of India is planning to spend Rs.3490 crores during 9th Plan period for upgrading various airports.

1959. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target of expansion of Postal Network in the country particularly in regard to opening of Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs), upgradation of EDBOs to Departmental Sub Officers (DSOs), supply of letter boxes to Rural & Tribal areas during the Eighth Plan, State-wise separately.

(b) whether during 1994-95 the physical targets of various programmes of expansion of postal network have been drastically curtailed;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target set out at the beginning of the current plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA). (a) The target of expansion of Postal Network in the country particularly with regard to opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post offices (EDBOs) and Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) Postal Circle-wise is given in Annexure-I. No separate target is fixed for upgradation of EDBOs. The target for opening of DSOs, includes upgradation from EDBOs to DSOs. The supply of letter boxes in accordance with the policy to provide letter boxes in villages having a population over 500 has been made. The information regarding supply of letter boxed to Rural Tribal areas during the Eighth Plan, statewise is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The target of opening of Post Offices for whole of the country was lowered to reduce the extent of budgetary support.

(d) The original targets could not be restored, subsequent to the reduction referred to above.

STATEMENT*Circle-wise Target*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
		BO*	SO*	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	5	17	5	2	5	2	5	2	5
2.	Assam	27	3	25	3	5	4	4	4	2	4
3.	Bihar	70	8	90	8	3	11	10	11	10	11
4.	Delhi	-	5	-	6	-	10	-	10	1	10
5.	Gujarat	25	5	20	8	5	12	4	12	5	12
6.	Haryana	10	3	10	5	2	12	2	10	4	10
7.	Himachal Pradesh	15	1	15	2	12	6	7	10	4	10
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	1	5	1	-	2	-	2	2	2
9.	Karnataka	15	5	15	6	1	11	1	10	2	10