

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

(c) whether some private vehicles are being put use in place of these abandoned vehicles;

(d) if so, the number of vehicles abandoned by the Nigam and also the number of vehicles hired privately to meet the requirement and the monthly amount involved in hiring these private vehicles; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir. Several vehicles have been scrapped but their drivers are not sitting idle, since the scrapped vehicles are kept on the road till their replacements are received.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) No Sir.

(d) 69 vehicles have been scrapped from April, '95 to November. 96 vehicles are hired to meet operational requirements as per the justification. At present 167 vehicles have been hired. The monthly expenditure is Rs. 17 lakhs approximately.

(e) All scrapped vehicles are being replaced by new vehicles in a phased manner.

#### Delivery of Telephone Bills

2937. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have floated open tenders for delivery of telephone bills to the subscribers in South Delhi area during June, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government have subsequently floated limited tenders from the selected and limited contractors already in the list of the Department of Telecommunications;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for floating open tenders and subsequently limited tenders thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Limited tenders for delivery of bills for a period one month to three months were called for the South-I & South-II areas from the selected contractors including the contractors already working for the South areas of MTNL.

(c) Total 9 offers for South-I area and 8 offers for South-II area were received. The limited tenders were not finalised since the matter was subjudice. The bills were sent by Post through Post Offices.

(d) As the earlier contract had already expired, open tenders were floated to approve fresh contractors to deliver the bills to the customers premises.

Anticipating some delay in finalisation of open tenders, limited tenders were called for the delivery of bills for a period of 1 to 3 months pending finalisation of open tender.

#### Pension Scheme for ITDC Employees

2938. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has introduced a pension scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of its commencement; and

(c) the categories of employees covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) India Tourism Development Corporation has not framed/introduced any pension scheme for its employees.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Air Buses out of use

2939. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many Air Buses are out of use and since when;

(b) when they will be repaired and put into operation;

(c) whether any of them have been purchased by N.R. Is; and

(d) the details of the transaction undertaken by them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) None of the Air Bus aircraft with Air India and Indian Airlines is out of use.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Cancellation of Trains

2940. SHRI SOHANBEER:

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mail and passenger trains temporarily/permanently cancelled in the country during the last three years, zone-wise and location-wise;

(b) the reasons for their cancellation;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce the cancelled trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

#### Gold Deposit in Karnataka

2941. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh deposits of gold have been detected in Chitradurga and Sandur districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to fully assess the extent of the gold deposits in and around these two districts, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI), through mineral investigations, has detected deposits of gold in Chitradurga (0.6 million tonnes) and grade of (4 gram/tonne). The Gold deposits have been established in G R Halli, South Block, Chikkanahalli, Gonur-Kotemaradi, M.N. Halli, Kanchigana-halu and Honnemaradi. No gold prospect has been found in Sandur District of Karnataka.

(c) Assessment of Gold potential in Chitradurga district, Karnataka is a regular programme of mineral exploration of GSI.

#### Radio Station, Orissa

2942. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the radio stations in Orissa which are broadcasting regional news at present;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure more coverage of news originating from different regions in the State;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the poor and inadequate visual content of regional news bulletins particularly from Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there has been constant demand to increase the visual content; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Cuttack Regional News of All India Radio in Orissa is broadcasting Regional News bulletins in Oriya, Sambalpur and Jeypore stations of AIR relay these news bulletins while other stations in Orissa, including Local Radio Stations relay evening bulletins only for the benefit of listeners throughout Orissa.

(b) To provide coverage of news originating from different regions, AIR has deployed staff correspondents part-time correspondents in various parts of Orissa.

(c) and (d). Adequate number of visuals from different regions of Orissa are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar. On an average, 12 to 15 visuals items, out of which 8 to 10 pertaining to Orissa are included in the daily regional news bulletin.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. There has been demand to increase the visual content. It is Doordarshan's endeavour to include more visuals in news bulletin. Every effort is made to include as many visuals as possible with the help of Doordarshan's own camera team, Stringers and ENG Unit available with the Information and Public Relations Department of Government of Orissa.

#### Iron Ore Mines in Karnataka

2943. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Iron ore mines have been leased out to private sector in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of mines leased out to Private Sector, run by State Government, Union Government or any other Public Sector Unit;

(c) the production of iron ore in these mines during each of the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of iron ore exported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information provided by Indian Bureau of Mines three Iron ore mines in Bellary District were transferred by Mysore Minerals Ltd., a State Government Undertaking to M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Ltd. in 1985.

(c) The production of Iron Ore in these three mines during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production of Iron Ore (In Tonnes)		
1993-94	19111	2053	20158
1994-95	10691	3258	24197
1995-96	24589	900	1179