

(d) The bridge is likely to be completed in a period of 3 years, subject to availability of resources.

[English]

**Government Accommodation in  
Guwahati**

4347. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government employees posted at Guwahati and other towns of Assam are facing hardship for want of Government accommodation;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of Government flats constructed at Guwahati and other towns of Assam during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to build more flats for its employees posted there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT. (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 1899 Central Government employees at Guwahati eligible for General Pool accommodation.

(c) and (d) No General Pool accommodation has been constructed at Guwahati during the last three years. However, 136 quarters of various types are presently under construction at Guwahati.

**Lounge Facilities at Lakheempur  
Airport (Assam)**

4348. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether proper arrival and departure lounge facility is available at Lakheempur Airport (Assam); and

(b) if not the steps proposed to be taken to provide this facility there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing terminal building is suitable to cater to the needs of 50 passengers only. Hence, Airports Authority of India has taken up the work for construction of new terminal building with all modern amenities at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.47 crores. It will cater to 300 passengers at a time and the target date of completion is July, 1999.

**Allotment of Govt. Accommodation to  
Artists**

4349. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates allots accommodation to artists on the recommendations of the Departments of Culture;

(b) whether some Artists who have been allotted accommodation are being asked to vacate the premises; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons there-  
for ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Directorate of Estates allots houses to artists only with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

(c) Allotments in respect of 39 artists have been cancelled after expiry of the period of the allotment. Under the revised guidelines dated 17.11.97 allotments made to private persons including eminent artists are valid only upto the end of their current allotment period. Further, discretionary allotments in such cases, as per these guidelines, may be made if it is considered necessary in national interest or for meeting international obligations, with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

**Contaminated Food Served in Railway  
Canteen at Tughlakabad**

4350. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of railway employees fallen ill due to food poisoning after taking lunch at railway canteen in Tughlakabad as reported in "The Statesman" dated June 19, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of food etc., in various railway canteens are found to be highly substandard and unhygienic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide safe food in canteens and fix responsibility for those who shows laxity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) An incident of food poisoning was reported in the canteen at Railway Diesel Shed, Tughlakabad on 18.6.1998. A total of 110 number of staff were affected. They were quickly sent to various hospitals escorted by Railway Doctors. Out of the 110, 51 workers were admitted/kept under observation. Condition of others did not warrant hospitalisation and therefore they were discharged. Out of the 51 workers admitted two were kept overnight for observation while the remaining were released after some time. These two workers were also discharged the next day. A fact finding enquiry was ordered to go into the cause of the incident. The inquiry revealed the food poisoning occurred due to falling of lizard in 'Dal'.

(c) No, Sir. The quality of food in railway canteens is not substandard or unhygienic. It was just an isolated incident.

(d) The question does not arise. As far as this isolated incident is concerned, three employees have been prima facie held responsible for not exercising adequate care and are being taken up under Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules.

[Translation]

#### Light Rail Project in Pune

4351. SHRI VITHAL TUPE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government to introduce the 'light train' in Pune city;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(c) the funds likely to be provided for this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Agreement with Foreign Companies

4352. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways still have any agreement with any foreign companies which were entered into prior to India's independence;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the financial benefits which they derive from Indian Railways;

(c) the reasons for which such agreement still exists;

(d) whether the Railways propose to terminate such agreements in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. In so far as two branch Railways lines owned by private companies from pre-independence period are concerned, these are not foreign companies but Indian companies incorporated under the then Indian companies Act.

(b) The Indian companies concerned are the Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway Company Ltd. and The Central Provinces Railways Company Ltd. The financial terms are as shown in the given statement.

(c) and (d) The agreement provides for periodic review to examine the question to acquisition by the Ministry of Railways. Accordingly, the Ministry of Railways have decided not to exercise the purchase option in view of the poor financial position of both private Railways and hence the arrangements continue.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

(1) **The Ahmedpur-Katwa Railway Company Ltd. :** As per the agreement with the Company, if the net receipts in a year are not sufficient to pay a return of 3.5% on the paid up capital, the deficit shall be made good by the Government. If such receipts exceed 3.5% but do not exceed 5% of the paid of capital, the amount will be retained by the Company. In the event that net receipts exceed 5% of the paid up capital, the surplus will be divided equally between the Company and the Government. The Company is presently being paid only an amount of 3.5% of the paid up capital per annum.

(2) **The Central Provinces Railway Company Ltd. :** As per the agreement 45% of the gross earnings are retained by Central Railway towards operation and maintenance expenses. If the balance remaining is insufficient to yield a return of 5% per annum on the Company's capital of Rs. 94 lakhs plus Rs. 21,000/- per annum towards management expenses, the deficit