

(b) If so, the funds allocated for construction of above line after the techno-economic clearance, so far ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work has been included in the Supplementary Budget. 1997-98 to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances for which action has been initiated.

Construction of Over Bridge in Khammam

185. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted with regard to construction of an over-bridge in Khammam town:

(b) If so, the results thereof;

(c) whether there are any hurdles in executing the above work; and

(d) 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.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Problems faced by passengers at Netaji Subhash Chandra Airport

186. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether passengers are facing problems, both at the domestic and international terminals at Netaji Subhash Chandra Airport, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the measures that are proposed to be taken to provide more facilities to passengers;

(c) whether any expansion work at terminals are proposed to be undertaken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India has undertaken, at an estimated cost of Rs. 33.6 crores, works such as modification of existing terminal building, construction of airside corridor and security hold area, new apron for remote bays, canopy on city side, reconstruction of bay and taxi track, etc. in a phased manner to be completed by the year 2000 A.D. Action has also been taken to improve the acoustics of the public address system and streamline the working of the pre-paid taxi service.

Financial Irregularities in Indian Airlines

187. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have noticed serious irregularities, including financial mismanagement, in the service of Indian Airlines which has been affecting safety of the air passengers badly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to improve its service and to make the Airline a profitable one ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Airlines has taken/proposes to take the following measures to improve its services as well as financial position :- (i) Restructuring of routes; (ii) Creation of profit centres; (iii) Increase in international operations; (iv) Change in training pattern of pilots; (v) Creation of Alliance Air; (vi) Improvement in customer services; (vii) Improvement in corporate image by disseminating information about Company's strengths; (viii) Aggressive marketing strategies to improve market share; (ix) Strict control on recruitment and on capital expenditure; (x) Turn-around strategies suggested by the Kelkar Committee.

The Airline (alongwith its subsidiary Alliance Air) is already out of the red and is expected to earn a net profit of Rs. 50.1 crores (Provisional) during the year 1997-98.

[Translation]

Committee for Air Safety

188. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted to review the air safety arrangements of all the airports located in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the report/ recommendations of the Committee alongwith shortcomings in each these airports;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the above report ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No such Committee has been set up by the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Indo-China Talks for resolving pending issues

189. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: