

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

(a) whether the level of dialogue between India and China to resolve the issues that have been pending for a long time is proposed to be raised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief of Army Staff from China also visited India recently;

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held with him; and

(e) the outstanding issues that have not yet been settled between both the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal for the present.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) During the visit, two sides reiterated their commitment to build a constructive and cooperative relationship.

(e) Various issues of mutual interest are being discussed in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and the India-China Expert Group. The last meeting of the JWG (10th) was held in New Delhi in August 1997.

#### Committee for Route Rationalisation

190. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India Board has called for route rationalisation with a view to ease the financial crunch that Air India is facing;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been set up to formulate a viable longterm strategy; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India has been set up to give its recommendations on the route rationalization between Air India and Indian Airlines. Government have also constituted a committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay K. Kelkar, Chairman, Tariff Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the losses incurred by the Air India and to suggest a strategy for turning around the company.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Delhi Rent Control Act

191. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995 stands at present;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from the landlords and also the trader tenants in regard to the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Delhi Rent Bill, 1994 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 29.5.95 and by the Lok Sabha on 3.6.95. It was assented to by the President on 23.8.95 and it become Delhi Rent Act, 95. The Delhi Rent Act, 95 has not been brought into force so far.

(b) and (c) The Government has received a large number of representations both from the landlords and tenants (including trader tenants). While the landlords have been requesting for bringing the said Act into force immediately, the tenants have been demanding changes in some of the provisions of the Act before it is brought into force. These changes pertain to the clauses relating to deemed rent, compulsory registration of tenancies, inheritability of tenancies of non-residential premises, enhancement of rent and eviction of tenants.

(d) The Government decided after examining the matter in detail to amend the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 before it is brought into force. Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28.7.97 which at present is pending in the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

#### Export of Granite

192. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports granite and fine quality of granite is available in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether efforts made by Government to increase the export of granite have not brought good results;

(c) whether the recommendations made in the Conference of State Minister's held last year to increase export of the processed granite have been implemented; and

(d) if so, the outcomes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The efforts made by the Government to increase the Export of Granite has borne good results as would be evident from the steady growth of exports during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Some of the recommendations have already been implemented. In that direction, Granite Development Council has been reconstituted for overseeing the overall development of granite industry including its export. In addi-