

(c) the time by which the upgradation of the airport infrastructure is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANNATH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to develop and upgrade the airport infrastructure and to achieve this goal, it has recently formulated a policy on Airport Infrastructure which envisages;

- classification of airports into international and regional hubs to develop the capacity of airports in accordance with the future projections,
- constructions of new green field airports,
- participation of private sector (including foreign capital) in the development of airports.

(c) Upgradation of airport infrastructure is a continuing process.

[Translation]

Increase in Compensation Amount

237. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently increased the compensation amount to be paid to the victim of rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the increase would be made effective ?

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) and (c) The amount of compensation in case of death and permanent disability in train accident or 'untoward incident' has been raised from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs. In case of injuries, the minimum amount has been raised from Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 32,000/- and maximum from Rs. 1.80 lakhs to Rs. 3.60 lakhs. These have been made effective for train accidents or untoward incidents taking place on or after 1.11.97.

[English]

Central Assistance Under RSP

238. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sought Central assistance under the Rural Sanitation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount made available so far under the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT : (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Since the inception of the CRSP in Assam, an amount of Rs. 279.889 lakhs has been provided to the State as Central share.

Replacement of Ageing Aircraft

239. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of fighter aircraft with the Indian Air Force are nearing the end of their calendar life;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to replace these ageing aircraft of the Indian Air Force; and

(d) the number of aircraft of the Indian Air Force involved in accidents due to technical defects in ageing aircraft during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Total Technical Life of the fleet of a particular aircraft included in the IAF in 70's will expire in next 4-5 years. It is not considered desirable to disclose the type and total number of the aircraft in the interest of the security.

(c) Action is being taken to replace these ageing aircraft of the Indian Air Force with new and better fighter aircraft during the 9th, 10th and 11th plan periods.

(d) 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98

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Encroachment of Railway Land in Himachal Pradesh

240. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway land in Himachal Pradesh which is under illegal possession of the encroachers and the number of cases going on against the encroachers in the Courts as on April 30, 1998;

(b) the total area of Railway land which has been allotted by the Railways on permanent or temporary basis in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) the total area of Railway land which is still lying unused with the Railways ?

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