

- (ix) Losses in railway revenues.
- (x) Ensuring courtesy to passengers.
- (xi) Catering services.

(c) and (d) The Committee, after inspecting some stations, have sent inspection reports indicating the deficiencies noticed in the existing amenities and have made suggestions regarding running of Ladies Specials, improvement in drinking water arrangements, construction of retiring rooms, etc. The observations and suggestions of the Committee have been forwarded to the zonal railways concerned for taking remedial action.

[*Translation*]

**Sale of contaminated mineral water at
Railway Stations**

*77. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which the contracts for the supply of mineral water to passengers at railway stations and in trains and the period for which these contracts are given;

(b) whether the mineral water being sold at railway stations and in trains is tested regularly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to supply of contaminated mineral water during the last two years;

(e) if so, the detail thereof;

(f) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(g) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the guilty persons/firms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) As per the extant guidelines, contracts for supply of mineral water are awarded by each zonal railway following a process of tendering through press notifications. A committee of three senior officers finalise the contract which is normally for a year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During the last two years, 28 complaints were received on all Indian Railways viz. 2 complaints each on Central, Eastern and one each on North Eastern and Northeast Frontier and 22 complaints on Northern Railway.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) On the basis of inquiry conducted the supply of four brands of mineral water has been discontinued and their contracts terminated. Besides fines were also imposed on the firms on the basis of complaints received.

Breakdown of Computer in 2000

*78. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the computers will breakdown at the end of the century because of the Millenium bug or Y2 bug and thus the Civil Aviation programme will completely collapse and flying will become extremely dangerous; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures or back-ups the Civil Aviation Ministry has taken or proposes to take?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Necessary remedial measures are being taken by the concerned civil aviation organizations to make the systems Y2K-compliant and to keep a Contingency Plan in readiness to ensure continuity of Air Transport Operations during the millenium change-over.

Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel

*79. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sent proposal to the State Governments to abolish or reduce 'Sales Tax' on aviation turbine fuel to reduce the financial burden on domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States that have accepted this proposal and the reasons for not accepting the proposal by rest of the States?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 26th September, 1997, a letter was sent to the Chief Secretaries of all the

State Governments and Union Territories Administration, inter-alia, requesting for considering abolition of Sales Tax (ST) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

(c) Reply has been received from 13 State Governments and one Union Territory Administration which is summarised below:—

State Govt./U.T. Admn.	Reply
1	2
1	3
01. Andhra Pradesh :	Has exempted from payment of ST on ATF for airlines having passenger capacity of less than 50 and touching any airport other than Hyderabad in that State;
02. Maharashtra :	Has exempted all the domestic airlines from payment of ST on ATF for operating to places other than Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad in that State for the period 1.6.1996 to 31.1.2001 and Span Aviation (M) Pvt. Ltd. for operating to any place in the State other than Mumbai for the period of 1.4.1997 to 31.3.2002.
03. Madhya Pradesh :	Has exempted only air taxi operators;
04. Mizoram :	Has not started imposition of ST on ATF;
05. Nagaland :	Has no objection to abolish ST on ATF;
06. West Bengal :	Is not in favour of abolition of ST on ATF but is considering waiver of Sales Tax for M/s Bengal Air Services Ltd;
07. Andaman & Nicobar Island Admn :	Has not levied ST on ATF.
08. Assam :] Have not agreed to abolish ST on ATF mainly
09. Delhi :	
10. Haryana :	

1	2	3
11. Manipur :] on account of resource crunch.	
12. Rajasthan :		
13. Tamil Nadu :		
14. Tripura :		

Water Shed Development

*80. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPOLYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge existing three watershed programme presently being run by different departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether States are demanding regularisation of Central earmarking norms for watershed developments; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee constituted to consider the merger of various schemes under the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment regarding watershed development has submitted its report recommending:—

(i) Combined Watershed Development Programme by merging Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Projects (IWDP) and entrusting to the Department of Wastelands Development for implementation.

(ii) Funds earmarked for DPAP, DDP and IWDP scheme should be transferred to the common pool for combined Watershed Development Programme.

(iii) Rupees 100 crores should be transferred out of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) fund under Central Share to the combined watershed development programme.

(c) and (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh desired that the cost of a Watershed Project in both the Eco-Systems viz. Semi Arid and Dry Sub-Humid Areas