

MTPY) to 4.8 MTPY and that of their alumina refineries at Jaman-jodi in Orissa from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY at a cost of Rs. 1665 crores (June, 1996 price level) in December, 1996. The project is to be implemented in 51 months time from the date of Govt. approval. Currently, the project is under implementation by NALCO and is progressing on schedule.

(c) to (e) Govt. have approved expansion of the capacity of NALCO's aluminium smelter at Angul, Orissa from 230000 TPY to 345000 TPY and that of the captive power plant from 720 MW to 840 MW at a cost of Rs. 2062 crores (June, 1997 price level) in February, 1998. The project is to be funded through internal resources, suppliers credit, external borrowings etc. The project is to be implemented in 51 months time from the date of Government approval. The company has appointed engineering consultants for expansion of the aluminium smelter and also for expansion of the captive power plant. Currently, the project is under implementation by NALCO and is progressing on schedule.

[Translation]

**Flights between Mumbai-Calcutta Via Ahmedabad, Indore and Bhopal**

251. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Airlines flight (No. I.C. 133) between Mumbai and Calcutta via Ahmedabad, Indore and Bhopal was in operation in 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons for its discontinuance; and

(c) by which date this flight is likely to be resumed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This flight was withdrawn due to shortage of operating crew in 1992.

(c) The traffic on these sectors is not adequate for operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft and the related operating crew also do not permit operation of service on this route by Indian Airlines. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations such as Ahmedabad, Indore and Bhopal in their network, subject to viability.

[English]

**Construction of Sitamarhi-Muzzaffarpur Railway Line**

252. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of railway line between Sitamarhi and Muzzaffarpur has been approved by the Government;

(b) whether any survey work has been executed on this line;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the construction work of the above line is proposed to be taken up and completed; and

(e) the amount earmarked for this project 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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Survey has been completed which has revealed that the cost of this 63 kms. line will be Rs. 100 crs. with a negative rate of return.

(d) Land acquisition is in progress by State Government. Work will be taken up once land becomes available.

(e) The amount earmarked for the year 1997-98 was Rs. 0.01 cr. The outlay proposed for 1998-99 will become known when the budget is presented on 29.5.1998.

**Functioning of Computerised Booking Centres in Nagaland**

253. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that due to non-availability of direct Micro-wave link, the computerised booking centres in Nagaland remain in-operative for most of the times; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps being taken to make the system more 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) and (b) Passenger Reservation System at Nagaland (Kohima) has been functioning with an uptime of more than 90% in the last seven months excepting during November, 1997. Railways are maintaining constant touch with Department of Telecommunication (DOT) to sustain high degree of efficiency.

**Profit Earned by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.**

254. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned and losses suffered by the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, during each of the last two years;

(b) the reasons for the losses, if any; and