

and over a strike length of 600 M in Belda-Junewani area has been established in Nagpur district.

Proposal for Reducing the Cost on Air Freights by AI and IA

330. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to minimise the air-travel fares to make the air journey accessible to the common people;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for reducing the cost on air flights and expenditure being incurred on maintenance etc.

(c) if so, whether Indian Airlines/Air India are contemplating to implement this suggestion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION : (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Domestic air fares are fixed by the airlines based on their commercial judgement. The Government is pursuing several measures like bringing down the Aviation Turbine Fuel prices to the international levels; restoration of exemption under Section-10 (15A) of the Income Tax Act; crediting of proceeds of IATT/FTT to the National Civil Aviation Fund to be operated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and grant of patent subsidy to airlines for Category-II operation which, if implemented, may at least arrest the increase in domestic fares if not result in their reduction.

International fares are determined at the IMTA Tariff Coordinating Conference represented by various international airlines and these are filed with the respective Governments for approval. In India, this approval is granted by the DGCA. 3rd/4th freedom carriers are also allowed to file special fares keeping in view consumer interest and market conditions which are implemented with the approval of DGCA.

[English]

Third Railway Track between Kharagpur and Midnapur

331. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government regarding the construction of third rail track between Kharagpur and Midnapore under South Eastern Railway; and

(b) the time by which the above track is likely to be completed ?

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) On Kharagpur-Midnapore section patch doubling has already been done between Gokulpur & Cossye. A survey for doubling of the entire section has also been taken up.

(b) This is not a sanctioned work so far.

Modernisation and Upgradation of Railway Network

332. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to undertake modernisation and the upgradation of railway network in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the fund earmarked therefor; and

(c) the routes and item of works identified for modernisation and upgradation during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

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. Upgradation and modernisation of Railway's assets and network is a continuous process.

(b) Allocation of funds is a need-based exercise. Funds for upgradation of Railway's assets and facilities are allocated during the budgetary exercise.

(c) Identification of assets for upgradation is done on the basis of needs of the Railways. Such upgradation is done as per Railways' requirements route-wise/terminal-wise and State-wise.

[Translation]

Air Flights between Aurangabad-Khajurao

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

(a) whether Indian Airlines had announced to introduce a new flight between Aurangabad and Khajurao via Bhopal in 1992 in order to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing it so far; and

(c) the time by which the same is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Due to poor response and crew constraints at that time, this service could not be introduced.

(c) The anticipated traffic on this route is not adequate to justify operations with the Jet aircraft fleet in Indian