

Airlines. Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft and the related operating crew do not permit Indian Airlines to consider operations on this route. Private Operators are, however, being encouraged to include new stations such as Aurangabad, Khajuraho etc. In their network, subject to viability.

[English]

Requirement and supply of wagons

334. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of wagons in 1990-91 was more than that of 1996-97;

(b) If not, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons for which the deficiency of wagons was not met by the Railways; and

(d) the status of the requirement supply of railway during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 ?

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) Does not arise.

(c) The number of wagons alone is not the deciding factor for carrying projected freight traffic. It depends on the type of stock also. Indian Railways have now been inducting higher capacity, roller-bearing, air brake stock and phasing out inefficient, plain bearing, four wheeler vacuum brake stock. As a result the wagon utilisation has increased appreciably from 1407/NTKm/Wagon/Day on line in 1990-91 to 1840 NTKm/Wagon/Day on line in 1996-97. Also, the wagon ineffective percentage (for BG stock) has come down from 4.07% in 1990-91 to 3.88% in 1996-97. This has enabled Indian Railways to carry higher traffic despite marginal reduction in wagon holding.

Moreover, in the first three years of VIII Plan i.e. 1992-93 to 1994-95, the freight traffic carried by the Railways did not increase as planned and therefore the wagon acquisition was curtailed from 1,20,000 in VIII Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) to 81,000 only. Later due to sudden increase in traffic from December 1994 onwards, it was again revised upwards to nearly 1,00,000 in July 1995.

(d) The position of target of procurement and supply of Railway wagons in four wheeler units from 1995-96 to 1997-98 is as under :-

Year	Target Procurement	Actual supply
1995-96	19000	17950
1996-97	30000*	22185
1997-98	26000*	27865

*Incl. 5000 wagons (FWUs) under Own your Wagon Scheme & BOLT (for each year)

Bilateral Military Technical Cooperation with Russia

335. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent Indo-Russian Defence officials' talk in New Delhi, an arrangement for bilateral military-technical cooperation was worked out;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The fourth session of the Indo-Russian Group on Military-Technical Co-operation was held in New Delhi on December 19-21, 1997. Meeting of this Group are held at regular intervals in India and Russia to review the progress of defence co-operation between the two countries and to address any outstanding issues. These meetings also provide an opportunity for the two sides to discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Basic Amenities

336. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has sought financial assistance for providing basic amenities to the recently regularised colonies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount provided/proposed to be provided in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) No such proposal has been received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Airstrips in Maharashtra

337. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a number of airstrips in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of airstrips and the places where these are to be constructed;