

1	2
4. Regional Directors	4. Regional Directors
5. Station Managers	

(c) Complimentary tickets are issued for business promotion, keeping in view the commercial interest of the Airlines.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) and (f) Complimentary tickets are issued in the commercial interest of airlines, irrespective of the profession/occupation of the individual.

[Translation]

#### Valuable Minerals in M.P.

399. SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that official talks were held with foreign companies and their sponsored companies regarding exploitation, exploration, survey, mining and marketing of valuable minerals in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the officers, companies and the representatives with whom the talks were held during the last two years;

(c) the names of the places where these talks were held between 1st January, 1996 to 31st March, 1998; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the agenda during the talk ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The Officers of Department of Mineral Resources, Government of Madhya Pradesh held discussion with foreign sponsored companies regarding survey, exploitation, exploration, mining and marketing of Diamonds during prebid conference held to clarify terms and conditions of invitation of offer and to seek suggestions of potential offerers.

(b) The State Government was represented by Shri S. Lakshminarayan, Principal Secretary, Shri V.K. Dalela, Secretary and Shri A.P. Sahu, General Manager (Operation), Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. In the Meeting held on 9.12.97, the following companies were present : ACC Rio Tinto Exploration Ltd., Bangalore represented by Mr. Suresh Kumar, Mr. John Bertram, Mr. Adrian. Lumley-Smith; Adamas India Pvt Ltd., New Delhi represented by Mr. Alan N.Campbell, Vishal Diamonds Pvt. Ltd., Bombay represented by Mr. Paul Mazak, Mr. John Garlik and Mr. Shirish Shah. In the Meeting held on 8th and 9th January, 1998, the following companies were represented:- ACC Rio

Tinto Exploration Ltd, represented by Mr. John Bertram, Adamas India Pvt. Ltd., represented by Mr. Alan N. Campbell and Vishal Diamonds Pvt. Ltd., Bombay represented by Mr. Paul Mazak, Mr. Shirish Shah and Mr. Vijay Biyani.

(c) and (d) The above talks were held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The Pre-bid conference were held to clarify terms and conditions of invitation of offer and to seek suggestions of potential offerers.

[English]

#### Placement of Order for Special Coaches

400. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to place an order with German coachmaker LHB for 30 special coaches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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) A contract had been placed in Oct. 19, 1995 on M/s. LHB, Germany for import of 24 All Metal Light Weight High Speed Coaches at an approx. value of Rs. 130 crores along with Transfer of Technology contract at an approx. value of Rs. 40 crores.

(b) At present coaches being manufactured in India are of 1950's technology and need improvements as regards reduction in tare weight, resistance to corrosion, internal furnishings and toilets, riding comfort, availability and reliability, etc.

In order to achieve the above objectives, it was decided to upgrade the design and manufacturing capabilities of Indian Railways by going in for state-of-the-art technology Light Weight Coaches with improved riding, lower maintenance costs, lower expenditure of energy in haulage per seat km., improved interiors and higher speed potential resulting in higher utilisation and increased passenger comfort. Country needs new design of coaches so that more number of passengers can be carried per coach/train; the maintenance costs could be reduced and the energy haulage costs are brought down. In short, induction of new technology coaches would be cost effective in the long run for Indian Railways.

#### Period of Railway Reservation

401. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the extended period for booking of reservation in Railways from one month to two months before, has caused serious crisis to get reservations in Railways as this has given enough scope for the touts and racketeers to block tickets;