

(d) The report has been submitted by the Government on the facts of the case to the National Human Rights Commission. The directives of the commission are awaited. As the said land was handed over to the Government of Andhra PPradesh on 3.8.1987 and the custodial responsibility of the land vests with the State Government therefore the matter has also been taken up with the State Government.

29

*Railways***Uneconomic Rail Lines**

3493. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to dismantle uneconomic rail lines;

(b) if so, the sections identified for the same, zone-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal with the Government to enter into joint ventures with the State Governments for taking up new projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Cabinet approval for setting up of Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) to execute rail sector projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II) has been obtained. This would be on the basis of an equity participation on a 51:49 basis between the Indian Railways and Govt. of Maharashtra.

29 - 30

Banikhet Airport Project in Himachal Pradesh

3494. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have refused to fund the Banikhet Airport Project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) :

(a) to (c) The consultant appointed by the Himachal Pradesh Government has advised against

development of an airport of Banikhet mainly because of the prohibitively high cost of construction; serious damages to ecology; need for the felling of about 5000 trees, dislocation of about 80 families; shifting of a field firing range and acquisition of 181 bighas of forest land. Further as per policy on airport infrastructure approved by the Government no airport should be constructed within 150 kms. of the existing airport. The existing airports at Jammu and Guggal are within this limit. Therefore, the proposal for Banikhet Airport will be in violation of this policy.

30

35th Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee

3495. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the additional organisation invited by the Government to the 35th meeting of the Standing Labour Committee;

(b) whether the additional representatives of small scale industry were invited;

(c) if so, whether the Government received requests from Indian Council for small scale industries for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not inviting this organisation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) were also invited to participate in the 35th Session of the Standing Labour Committee. The representatives of Indian Council of Small Industries also attended the Conference as "Observer".

30 - 31

*Railways***Linking of Tonk with Rail Network**

3496. SHRI DWARKA PRASHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been earmarked for the linking of Tonk with rail network during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;