

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

At present, Indian Airlines operates four times a week A-320 service on Mumbai/Bhavnagar/Mumbai route which provides both ways convenient connection between Delhi and Bhavnagar via Mumbai.

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#### Extension of B.D.R. Railway Line

3499. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Bankura Damodar River (B.D.R.) railway line from Burdwan to Howrah;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on above project is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the steps taken for timely completion of the project?

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) to (c) A survey for a new line from Bardhaman to Tarakeswar via Rainagar has been taken up. As and when this line comes up, the desired linkage of the erstwhile Bankura Damodar River line with Bardhaman and Howrah will be set up. However, any further consideration of this proposed linkage will be possible only after the results of the ongoing survey become available.

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Air Services

#### Extension of Delhi-Kullu-Shimla Flight to Chandigarh

3500. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering extension of certain flights like Delhi-Kullu-Shimla to the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal of connecting Chandigarh with any other town by Air; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Operators are free to operate to any place/ on any route depending upon their commercial judgement. No private scheduled operator is operating any flight to/from Chandigarh. Indian Airlines may consider airlinking Chandigarh with Kullu/Shimla subject to availability of aircraft capacity and economic viability of operations.

[Translation]

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Journalism

#### Procedure for Accreditation to Editors/ Cameramen

3501. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted for accreditation to Editors/Cameramen of weekly, fortnightly and monthly magazines and News and Photo Agencies and the time taken in accreditation after the application is received;

(b) whether any procedure also adopted for accreditation to the unemployed journalists;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) the basis on which advertisements are given to the advertising agencies and News Agencies by the institution giving these advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Accreditation is granted to the Editors/ Correspondents/Cameramen of the news agencies, newspapers and periodicals having a periodicity of a fortnight or less in accordance with the Accreditation Rules. The time taken in providing accreditation, depends upon various factors such as submission of complete information and documents alongwith the application, receipt of security clearance from police and meeting of the Central Press Accreditation Committee etc. Normally, it takes about 2-3 months for granting accreditation from the date of receipt of application.

(b) and (c) There is no provision in the Accreditation Rules to provide accreditation to the unemployed journalists.

(d) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) releases advertisements to newspapers empanelled with them after taking into consideration the target area, readership and budgetary provisions etc. DAVP does not release advertisements to Advertising agencies/News agencies.