

infrastructure for Tourism has recommended a multi pronged strategy to boost tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by Task Force; and

(c) the number of recommendations accepted and implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) There is no National Task Force on Infrastructure specifically for Tourism.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

**Indian Airlines Service to South-East Asian Countries**

3531. DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines is planning a service to South-East Asian countries with Calcutta as the hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility studies have also been made to study the demand on some important international routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines are conducting a traffic survey to study the feasibility of a service between Calcutta and Hong Kong.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has planned operations on Bangalore-Bangkok sector. A traffic survey is also being undertaken to study the feasibility of a service between Bangalore and Kuala Lumpur.

[Translation]

**Construction of over Bridge in Lucknow**

3532. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that immediately after the Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation of railway bridge number 469 at Lucknow, U.P., the construction work has been postponed by the railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the aforesaid construction work 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By year 2001.

[English]

Karnataka

**Development of Ulsoor Lake in Bangalore**

3533. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ulsoor Lake in Bangalore has been chocking with weeds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have requested the Government of Karnataka to release funds for taking up the cleansing operations;

(d) if so, the reaction of that Government thereon; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent by the Union Government during current year for cleansing the lake?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Even though Madras Engineering Group utilises a portion of Ulsoor Lake in Bangalore for purpose of training from time to time, Ulsoor lake is under the management of the Bangalore City Corporation.

(c) Madras Engineering Group nor Government of India have approached the Government of Karnataka or Bangalore City Corporation for Cleansing operation.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Sports Channel on Doordarshan**

3534. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI TEJVEER SINGH :

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently started a new sports channel on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new sports channel;

(c) whether the Government propose to start any training programme for the sport commentary on Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. To cater to the interest of millions of sports lovers in India and abroad, Doordarshan launched a dedicated 'Sports Channel' on 18.03.1999. The duration of transmission which was initially for six hours has been increased to 12 hours daily w.e.f. 25.3.99. The channel which is operating from PAS-4 satellite having footprints in 34 countries of Middle-East, CIS and Neighbouring Region, European Region and African Region will be devoted to various disciplines of sports with stress on Indian sports events, indigenous games, rural sports etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

65-66

**Doubling of Malda-New Jalpaiguri-New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon Railway Line**

3535. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of requests received by Railways from MPs for doubling of Malda-New Jalpaiguri-New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon-Guwahati Broad Gauge Line during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

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 number of requests have been received, including repetitive ones, during the last 3 years from various Members of Parliament. Very often, letters from Hon'ble Members of Parliament refer to several projects. Each request received from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament is dealt individually and due consideration is given to it. However, consolidated project-wise record of such representations is not maintained.

(b) The requests have already been acceded to. The doubling of Malda-New Jalpaiguri section has been completed except for a short stretch between

Dalkhola and Kishanganj, where the work is in progress and would be completed by March, 2000.

The gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon has been taken up. Once this line is converted to broad gauge, we will have a double line between New Jalpaiguri and New Bongaigaon. The work of gauge conversion of this line is planned to be completed during 9th Plan period depending upon availability of resources.

Between New Bongaigaon-Guwahati, a new BG line via Jogighopa is under construction and will be completed later this year. With this 2 lines which will serve the purpose of doubling will become available between these points.

[Translation]

6-6 Bihar, Labour

**Violation of Minimum Wages In Granite Mine**

3536. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private owners of black granite mine of Pakur (Bihar) are not following the safety rules and giving minimum wages to their workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the mine owners do not attend the meeting called by Labour Commissioner to dispose off the matters relating to labour disputes; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) The information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

66-67

Railways

**Appointment of Rail Traveller Service Agents**

3537. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mugal Sarai division of the Eastern Railway had given an advertisement in 'Hindustan' dated May 11, 1998 with regard to the appointment of two Railway Traveller Service Agents at Mugal Sarai and three at Gaya;

(b) if so, the eligibility criteria fixed by the Eastern Railway in this regard;

(c) whether the then senior R.C.M. had appointed the agents at Gaya in a hurry just before his transfer;

(d) if so, whether the appointed agents at Gaya fulfilled all the conditions, those laid down under rule 4 for getting licence; and