

(e) if so, the steps being contemplated to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) (a) The percentage of funds allocated for converting metre gauge line into broad gauge vis-a-vis the total outlay for the annual plan during the last three years is as below

Year	Total Plan Outlay (Crores of Rs.)	Allocation for gauge conversion (Crores of Rs.)	Percentage %
1995-96 (Actuals)	6464	1251	19.4%
1996-97 (Actuals)	8310	1143	13.8%
1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	8403	1185	14.1%

(b) The figures for the expenditure under the plan-head "Track Renewals" vis-a-vis the total outlay for the annual plan for the last three years are given below :

Year	Total Plan Outlay (crores of Rs.)	Allocation for Track Renewal (crores of Rs.)	Percentage %
1995-96 (Actuals)	6464	1546	23.9%
1996-97 (Actuals)	8310	1597	19.2%
1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	8403	1680	20.0%

The funds being provided for track renewal are not considered adequate. The funds required for track renewal and other minor related activities in the IX Plan are Rs. 13,200 crores, but the funds actually provided for the track renewal are not commensurate.

In addition, the railways are incurring expenditure on routine maintenance of track under revenue head of expenditure. The figures for expenditure on track maintenance for the last three years are given below :

Year	Expenditure on track maintenance (Cr. of Rs.)
1995-96 (Actuals)	1050
1996-97 (Actuals)	1183
1997-98 (Revised Estimates)	1554

The expenditure on maintenance of track is dependent upon availability of funds for maintenance in Railways.

(c) The track is maintained satisfactorily for the safe running of trains at the permissible speed of the section. In the sections where the track is overdue renewal, extra effort in the form of more frequent testing of rails and maintenance effort is also provided.

(d) and (e) The inadequacy of funds for track renewal and maintenance has been brought out in para 1.5.6 of the Status paper on Railways laid on the table of the Sabha.

Violation of Guidelines by Jet Airways

*279. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from Members of Parliament regarding violation of guidelines and provisions contained in New Domestic Air Transport Policy by Jet Airways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision that has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The allegations pertain to ownership pattern of the company, sources of funds, violation of the provisions of civil aviation guidelines etc. and these are under examination.

Mineral Reserve

*280. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many mineral reserves in country;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Department of Geological Survey of India in this regard;

(c) if so the details thereof; State-wise;

(d) whether any technical help has been sought from certain foreign institutions in the country;

(e) if so the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the mining of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Mineral survey is a continuous process and during the last three years, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted 168 investigations in 1995-96, 170 investigations in 1996-97 and 164 investigations in

1997-98 for augmenting the mineral resources of the country.

(c) Details of important State-wise achievements during 1995-98 given in the attached statement-I

(d) No. Sir. However, French assistance is being availed of by GSI from BRGM, France under the aegis of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation for upgradation of technical abilities and infrastructure facilities of GSI.

(e) The details of State-wise activities undertaken with the assistance of BRGM, France are at Annexure-II.

(f) Government have adopted a number of measures for the development of the mining sector. These include announcement of the National Mineral Policy 1993, opening-up of the mineral sector for private initiatives by induction of capital and state-of-art technology (both domestic and foreign), removing restriction on foreign equity participation (automatic approval of foreign equity upto 50% except for gold, silver, diamond and precious stones), devolving more powers to the State Governments for the grant and renewal of Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases, issue of guidelines for grant of Prospecting Licences over large areas for aerial Survey, rationalisation of the royalty rates of minerals making them comparable with international rates, and setting up of a committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) in February, 1997 to review the existing laws and procedures for regulation and development of minerals. The Report of the Committee has been received.

Statement-I

Andhra Pradesh

Gold : (a) 0.70 mt of gold ore with 7.20 g/t Au in DONA east block.

Diamond : (a) 12 Kimberlite bodies were discovered in Mohboobnagar district and bordering Gulbarga district.

(b) 47 diamond pieces received from kimberlites located at Twajrakarur, Anantapur district.

Bihar

Coal : 335 mt

Gujarat

Coal : 5.0 mt

Karnataka

Gold : (a) 1.5 million tonnes of ore with average grade of 3g/t Au in Chinmulgund block of Shimoga Belt.

(b) 0.63 mt of gold ore with 3.54 g/t Au in Chikkanih block of Shimoga belt.

Kerala

Clay : (a) 2110 mt of good quality china clay (40% recoverability) in parts of Kollam, Kasagod and Theiruvanthapuram and Kannanor district.

Madhya Pradesh

Gold : (a) 2.1 mt of ore averaging 1.28 g/t Au in Ghar Pahar, Sidhi district.

Manganese Ore : (a) 2.17 mt of medium grade Mn ore in UKWA, Balaghat district.

Diamond : (a) Incidence of placer diamonds noted in the River Bed at Karai and Ankeria.

Coal : 457 mt.

Maharashtra

Gold : (a) 0.125 mt of gold ore with 2.60 g/t Au in Marupar-Kitari Block.

Pb-Zn-Cu : (a) 0.7 mt of ore with 1.2% Cu in Garara block, Bhandara district.

Meghalaya

Limestone : (a) 894 mt of recategorised reserves of SMS and cement grade limestone estimated.

Orissa

Manganese Ore : (a) 0.89 mt of manganese ore with 25% Mn in Balangir district.

(b) 0.40 mt of manganese ore with 23.4% Mn in Sundergarh district.

Platinum Group Metals : (a) 6 mt of Platinum-gold ore with average grade of 2 g/t Pt+Pd+Au in Baula-Nausahi complex.

Coal : 1041 mt.

Rajasthan

Gold : (a) 2.74 mt. of gold ore containing about 4.9 tonnes of gold in Banswara district.

Pb-Zn-Cu : (a) 1.1 mt. of ore with 2.5% Pb+Zn in South Sindesar ridge, Rajsammad district.

(b) 2.52 mt. of lead-zinc ore with 2.76% Pb+Zn in Sindesar ridge block.

(c) 0.85 mt. of 2.25% Pb+Zn in South Sindesar.

(d) 1.14 mt. of 3.82% Pb & Zn in Latio-Ka Khera block Rajasthan.

Tamil Nadu

Molybdenum : (a) 2.6 mt of ore with 0.116% Mo in Velampatti South block of Harur-Uttangarai belt.