Productivity Linked Bonus to Air India Agents/ Employees

3021. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to discontinue with the productivity linked bonus given to its ticketing agents and employees: and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Air India (AI) pays Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) to its staff and Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) to travel agents. AI has no proposal at present to abolish PLI With a view to reduce its distribution costs AI has decided to discontinue PLB to travel agents effective December 1, 1998 in the India region provided all major airlines support this decision and do not pay PLB to agents.

Land of R.S.P.

3022: SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total land of Rourkela Steel Plant lying unutilised;

(b) whether there is any proposal to return this unutilised land to the State Government of Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Vacant land at Rourkela Steel Plant is 3947.29 Acres. The details are as under :

(Unit in Acres)

- (i) Unbuildable Area under Hills, 1837.06 nullahs, lagoons etc.
- Land for future expansion of Plant, 1730.23 pollution control schemes, township etc.
- (iii) Proposed for transfer to State 380.00 Government

[Translation]

Link Failure at Bhagalpur and Jamalpur Station

3023. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that people are not getting the benefit of declared arrangements of reservation facilities at Bhagalpur and Jamalpur Stations in Bihar due to the link failure; and (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to correct the system?

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) Yes, Sir. There have been some cases of link failures.

(b) Railways are maintaining constant touch with Department of Telecommunication (DOT) to rectify the faults as and when they occur and to sustain high degree of efficiency.

Administrative Expenses of Sail

3024. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

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

(a) whether the administrative expenses of the Units under Steel Authority of India are more than that of the Steel Production units of the other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the SAIL to reduce the administrative expenses in its Steel Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Details of administrative expenses of steel producing units in other countries are not available. However, to reduce the administrative expenses SAIL is taking various steps on a continuous basis which, inter-alia, include trimming/ closure of Liaison Offices of various SAIL plants situated in metropolitan cities, judicious use of telecommunication facilities instead of undertaking journeys, reduction of other administrative expenses, rationalisation of manpower etc.

[English]

Fund to DRDAS Under JRY

3025. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some of the State Government in the country are utilising a portion of JRY funds released to the DRDAS for the payment of cooks engaged in the Mid-day Meal cooking in the primary schools against the guidelines of the schemes envisaged;

(b) if so, whether these State Governments especially the Orissa Government have sought the permission of the Centre while violating the guidelines in this manner; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?