

Construction of Maksi-Godhara Rail Line

407. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Maksi-Godhara rail line is in progress;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the above railway line 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure upto 31-3-1998 is Rs. 12.20 crores.

(c) This work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

[English]

Raising the Retirement Age of Air India

408. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Raise age of retirement and airlines will sink; A-I workers" appearing in *The Indian Express* dated January 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The management of Air India has submitted a proposal to the Government for retaining the retirement age of its below Board Level employees at 58

years and this proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Profitability of Indian Airlines

409. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian Airlines going in for a new look" published in the Delhi edition of 'The Hindu' dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to improve the service and profitability in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The thrust of the news item of 1.2.1999 was on refurbishing of the existing aircraft(s), fleet renewal plan and operation of flights from Hyderabad to Doha, Chennai to Kuala Lumpur and Calcutta to Hong Kong.

(c) Indian Airlines is taking measures to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in the service rendered to the passengers and increase in profitability through:— (i) Product upgrade, (ii) Increased utilisation of aircraft, (iii) Increased International operations, (iv) Increased productivity, (v) Creation of Profit centres, (vi) Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, (vii) Launching of Alliance Air and (viii) Cost control measures.

Recruitment of Sports Persons in Railways

410. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Employees brought laurel in the recent Asian Games; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to recruit more sportspersons in the Railways?

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) 27.

(b) New Sports recruitment policy has been framed to give thrust to transparency in the field of recruitment