

Sir, Government's extant policy prohibits foreign investment in print media.

(c) No foreign electronic media have as of now been permitted to undertake any broadcasting or broadcasting related services from within the country.

(d) and (e) The Government does not maintain any such record.

[English]

Doubling of Solapur-Pakni Railway Line

421. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for doubling of railway line between Solapur and Pakni and creation of an additional terminus to relieve congestion of traffic at Solapur Station;

(b) if so, the details and cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

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 doubling of Bhigwan to Gulbarga section via Pakni and Solapur is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

Creation of additional terminal facilities at Solapur by remodelling of Solapur Yard as a part of gauge conversion of Solapur-Hotgi MG line has been taken up at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 1296.26 lakhs. The scope of the work envisages the following:

(i) Lengthening of lines.

(ii) Additional island platform.

(iii) Extension of washing line.

(iv) Two R & D lines.

(v) One Goods line.

(vi) Two spare stock lines.

(vii) 2 sick lines.

(viii) One goods unloading line.

(ix) Two shunting necks.

The above work is targeted for completion by 31.3.1999.

Free Rail Passes

422. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free and privilege All India Railway Passes, issued since March 1998 to January 1999, category-wise;

(b) criteria of issuance of such passes which is proving a great load on the Government exchequer;

(c) whether the Government intend to cancel such passes issued on false or untenable grounds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) The number of Complimentary All India Railway Passes issued to various categories from March 1998 to

January 1999 are as under:—

Category	No. of Card Passes Issued
1. Freedom Fighters (cost borne by Ministry of Home Affairs)	30,602
2. Ex-Members of Parliament	1534
3. Arjuna Awardees/Olympic Medalists/Asian & Commonwealth Gold Medalists	382
4. Gallantry Awardees (Defence)	735
5. Gallantry Awardees (Police)	674
6. Presidents/Secretaries of National Sports Federation of India	38
7. Non-officials Members of Hindi Salahkar Samiti	35
8. Dronacharya Awardees	2
9. Individuals & Organisations at discretion of Minister of Railways	122
Total	34,124

(b) Complimentary Card Passes are issued at the personal discretion of the Minister of Railways, to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities and on compassionate/medical ground. Other categories are self explanatory.

Accounting Policy of Airlines

423. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(c) and (d) Passes obtained on false and untenable grounds are cancelled on detection.

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of Indian Airlines during the last three years;