

commence from 1.1.2000 as mandated under Article XIX of the GATS. India will be actively participating in these negotiations in order to ensure that restriction on the movement of natural persons at the international level are relaxed.

[English]

Construction of Railway Stations

2454. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to expand the railway stations in the suburbs of the twin cities on the railway lines leading to Mahbubnagar, Wadi, Kazipet and Manmad for reducing traffic congestion;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) if so, the number of railway stations in the State being considered for expansion?

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) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in his letter to Minister for Railways has urged the Railways to take up surveys for constructing big Railway stations outside Hyderabad Municipal limits from where buses can ply to various parts of the city.

(b) Railways have already communicated their willingness to cooperate with the State Government to develop transport services within the present infrastructure to the extent possible and also to conduct feasibility study for the purpose at State Government's cost. Railways have requested the State Government to make payment for the feasibility study.

(c) Works for the expansion of facilities are going on at the following stations in Andhra Pradesh:

- (i) Secunderabad
- (ii) Vijayawada

(iii) Guntur Jn.

(iv) Hussain Sagar Jn.

(v) Cheruvun Adhavaram

(vi) Pandillapalle

(vii) Mallemadugu

(viii) Vishakhapatnam

(ix) Hyderabad

(x) Vizianagram.

Grounding of Foreign Pilots

2455 DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DGCA grounds foreign pilots" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated November 12, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of foreign pilots operating with private airlines are likely to lose their jobs;

(c) whether the Government propose to take a policy decision on the requirement of foreign pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) At present no foreign pilot is operating flights of any scheduled private domestic airline. However, foreign pilots have been permitted to operate international cargo flights and helicopters within the country, for limited period till sufficient number of Indian pilots are trained by the operators and acquire appropriate licence and adequate experience to replace the foreign pilots.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the existing policy a domestic air transport sector operator is permitted to employ foreign pilots/engineers till he is able to train his own manpower. However, it is permitted only with the express approval of the competent authority and for such