

(b) and (c) The site was handed over to the Airports Authority of India in February, 1998, after the objections raised by Defence authorities regarding the location of the civil enclave and construction of a separate approach road were discussed and resolved. Work has commenced in April, 1998.

[Translation]

Inauguration of Railway Projects

1429. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects inaugurated foundation stone laid during the last two years; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on the advertisements, posters and the functions organised by the Government to lay the foundation stones and inauguration of these projects during the above period?

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 & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Infrastructure Status for Steel Sector

1430. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Manufacturers Association have demanded infrastructure status for the Steel Manufacturing Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the details of the concessions that are available for the Steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the steel manufacturers and Industry Associations have demanded infrastructure status for the steel sector, in order to avail of the incentives available to infrastructure sector. However, Govt, have not acceded to the request at present.

(c) The steel sector has been accorded priority status in the Industrial Policy. Under this, it enjoys automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment upto 74% of equity in a steel project and automatic approval for Foreign Technology Agreement involving a fee upto US\$ 2 million. Besides, under Exim Policy, steel projects can avail of

concessional duties, including zero duty for import of capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme.

Deraiment of Sealdah-Kanchenjunga Express

1431. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sealdah-Kachenjunga Express derailed near Azamgarh Railway Station on May, 6, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured and value of Government property damaged thereby;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted therein; and

(f) if so, the outcome of the inquiry?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 6.5.1998, 4 coaches of 5658 Kanchenjunga Express derailed between Shamshi and Kumarganj Stations of Katihar Division, Northeast Frontier Railway. The reason of this accident is human failure.

(c) No person was either killed or injured in this accident. The loss of Government property was estimated as Rs.0.09 lakhs.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The accident was enquired into by a Committee of Officers which held the staff of Engineering Department responsible for this accident.

Reclassification of Airports

1432. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to reclassify airports at Delhi and Mumbai and develop them as international hubs on the lines of Amsterdam and Frankfurt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In the policy on airport infrastructure, an effort has been made to classify airports, with a view to developing them to meet the future growth of passenger and cargo traffic, into three categories, namely, international hubs, regional hubs and other airports. Delhi and Mumbai are classified as international hubs.