

(d) if so, the time by which the said train service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Use of Hubli Aerodrome

3061. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to ensure use of Hubli Aerodrome; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hubli Airport has facilities to sustain 50 seater aircraft operations. NEPC airlines which operated scheduled flights to Hubli from 17-4-1994 to 20-8-1995 discontinued flights, probably due to lack of adequate traffic. It is upto the airlines concerned to decide whether or not to fly, depending upon the volume of traffic and the economics of the operation.

Telephone Advisory Committees

3062. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted the State-wise or circle-wise Telephone Advisory Committees (TAC) after the expiry of terms of the previous committees, including MTNL Advisory Committees for Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether Members of Parliament and State Legislatures and the names sponsored by them are given representation on TACs as a matter of policy; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not including Members of Parliament and State Legislatures in the TAC for MTNL, Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir. Telephone Advisory Committees for one hundred field units have been constituted after expiry of their terms, till date. The term of TACs for Mumbai & Delhi has not yet expired.

(b) Yes Sir. Hon'ble M.Ps are included in the TAC if they are sponsored by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The names sponsored by Members of Parliament and State Legislatures are duly considered.

(c) One MLA has already been nominated in the TAC for MTNL Mumbai. Nominations of M.Ps for the TAC, MTNL Mumbai were not received from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Licences for Aluminium Plant in Orissa

3063. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give licence to any company for Aluminium Plants in Langigarh in Kalahandi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b). In order to encourage private sector investment in the aluminium sector, aluminium metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. However, Langigarh deposit is the proposed bauxite linkage for 100% Export Oriented Alumina producing unit for which Government has granted Letter of Intent to M/s Karnataka Telecables. The project has been at present kept in abeyance by the Company because the company felt that the bauxite deposits at Langigarh are inadequate to meet the requirement for the entire life span of the Alumina project.

(c) Does not arise.

Performance of Private Airlines in the Domestic Sector

3064. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of private airlines in the domestic sector in the wake of opening of civil aviation for private participations;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of action plan worked out to ensure that both public and private sector perform efficiently and profitably and harness the potential available in the country; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to strengthen infrastructure network/operational facilities for efficient operation of airlines to cater to the ever increasing traffic in the domestic and international sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No review of the performance of private airlines has been undertaken. However, with a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

(d) Induction of additional capacity and expansion of infrastructure for airlines operations are on-going processes.

Issue of Identity Cards to Construction Workers

3065. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision recently to introduce identity cards to the construction workers;

(b) if so, whether such provision is proposed to be made mandatory for the employers of the construction workers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures proposed to be adopted for the welfare of the construction workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (27 of 1996) has come into force w.e.f. 01.03.1996. Under Section 12 of the said Act every building worker between the age of 18 and 60 years engaged in construction work for not less than 90 days during the preceding 12 months shall be eligible for registration as a beneficiary. Section 13 of the said Act makes it mandatory for the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards constituted by the State Governments to issue identity cards to every beneficiary registered under the Act.

(d) The Act provides for hours of work, overtime wages, sufficient supply of wholesome drinking water, latrines and urinals, temporary living accommodation at or near the work site, maintenance of creches, canteens and first-aid facility. In addition, the Welfare Fund Boards may provide for immediate assistance in case of accident, old age pension, housing loans, group insurance, childrens' education, sickness and maternity benefits etc.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

3066. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of non-automatic telephone exchanges and the period required to convert them into automatic exchanges; and

(c) the capability of the country in developing and producing its own automatic exchanges, the annual production and investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is enclosed in the statement-I.

(b) All exchanges in the country are automatic except a few manual trunk exchanges.

(c) India has capability to develop and produce its own automatic exchanges. The information regarding production and investment is enclosed in the statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

No. of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in the Country as on 30.9.96, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2066
2.	Assam	287
3.	Bihar	790
4.	Delhi	127
5.	Gujarat	1397
6.	Haryana	750
7.	Himachal Pradesh	549
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	223
9.	Karnataka	2037
10.	Kerala	768
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2664
12.	Maharashtra (Including Mumbai & Goa)	2609
13.	North Eastern Region (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur)	232
14.	Orissa	713
15.	Punjab	856
16.	Rajasthan	1453
17.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	1414
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1734
19.	West Bengal (Including Calcutta, Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar)	659
Total		21328