

[English]

Off Loading of Passengers by International Airlines

2950. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International airlines operating out of India have been off loading passengers owing to a over booking situation causing great inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the names of such Airlines which off loaded passengers and the number of such passengers during the year 1996, (month-wise) and so far in 1997;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken so that the passengers are not put to any inconvenience and also are paid due compensation; and

(d) what has been the position of Air India and other Indian Airlines operating out of India during the year 1996, and so far in 1997?

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

(b) Air India is one of the airlines which has off loaded passengers. Indian Airlines has not off loaded any passengers in 1997 so far. Foreign airlines are not required to report such off loadings to the Indian Authorities.

(c) Overbooking is a practice prevalent in the airline industry all over the world and Air India and Indian Airlines constantly monitor and change over-booking profiles on the basis of experience loads to minimise off-loadings. Air India on most occasions tries to accommodate off-loaded passengers in the next available flight besides providing hotel accommodation, meals, transportation etc.

(d) During 1996, the average off-loading by Air-India was 496 passengers per month and during January - March, 1997 about 1000 passengers were off-loaded every month.

Companies Involved In Communication Sector

2951. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic and foreign private companies are working in the communication sector;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) the likely effect of such companies on the national security;

(d) the target fixed for setting up the Telecommunication centres, keeping in view the increasing demand of telecommunications in rural areas; and

(e) the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided to the persons in waiting list till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Enough safeguards in respect of National security have been provided in the Licences for operation of Telecom Services.

(d) No targets has been fixed for setting up of Telecommunication centres in the rural areas for the year 1997-98. However, target in the Perspective Plan tentatively fixed for Village Public Telephone programme is to cover entire villages during the IXth Plan period.

(e) The telephone connections are likely to be provided to the persons in the waiting list, till date, during 1997-98 in most of the telecom circles and in some telecom circles progressively during the first half of the Ninth Five Year Plan period with the exception of technically non-feasible cases.

Statement

List of Companies in Telecom Centre

A.K Electronics
 Aarkey Electronics
 ABC Communications (India) Pvt. Ltd.
 Accord Commn. (P) Ltd.
 Accumulative Manufacturers Com.
 Adino Telecom Limited
 Advanced Fibre Communications
 AE Telelink System Limited
 Aeon Electronics Private Ltd.
 Aerotech Pvt. Ltd.
 AFC Harris Multimedia Communication (P) Limited.
 AFCO Industrial & Chemicals Ltd.
 AFRO Asian Satellite Communications Ltd.
 AGT Electronics Ltd.
 Aircel Digilink India Ltd.
 Ajanta Transistor Clock Manufacturing Co.
 AKG India Ltd.
 AKSH India Ltd.
 Alcated Modi Network Systems Ltd.
 Alltel Information Services Inc.
 Alltron Electronics India Ltd.