

this alliance agreement in the short-run as well as long run?

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

(b) to (d) Air India has entered into Co-operative Services arrangements with various foreign airlines such as United Airlines, Scandinavian Airways System, Air Mauritius, Malaysian Airlines, Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air. Broad based alliances are also being explored with Air France, United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Singapore Airlines. These arrangements help Air India to expand its network and market reach without heavy investments. In the short run it also serves as a bridge mechanism to meet Air India's expansion objectives till it is able to augment its own fleet.

#### Discovery Channel

5274. SHRI. SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Discovery Channel will not be converted into a 'Pay Channel' atleast till January 1, 1999 and reported in observer of Business and Politics, New Delhi dated February 6, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the rationale behind this; and

(e) the utility of the Discovery Channel and whether it will be Indianised so far its audio-feed programmes are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI. S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) Discovery channel is being operated by a private entrepreneur disseminating programmes from abroad through a foreign satellite. The Government therefore, currently does not have any information relating to the rationale behind this channel, its utility and whether it will be Indianised etc.

[*Translation*]

#### Recruitment of Class IV Employees

5275. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large number of class IV vacancies in reserved category for SC/ST and other backward classes for a long time in Northern Railway Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi;

(b) whether the candidates sponsored by the Employment exchange have been waiting for their interview for a long time; and

(c) if so, the time by which all the formalities regarding selection of candidates are likely to be completed?

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

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### Selective Eviction from SCR Quarters

5276. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards news-item captioned "Selective eviction from SCR quarters" appearing in 'Deccan Chronicle', dated January 4, 1997.

(b) if so, out of about 3,000 railway quarters how many quarters have been illegally let out/leased to non-railway employees or outsiders and how many have been evicted;

(c) the reasons for serving eviction notices concentrated in places like Chikalguda and Bhoiguda only and higher type of quarters are selectively left out;

(d) the action being taken to see that illegally let out/leased out higher type of quarters are evicted and genuine claimants are given the quarters;

(e) whether any special cell has been constituted to take up and monitor the progress of work on a time-bound basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Investigations were carried out which revealed 45 cases of subletting of Railway Quarters. Whenever there is a case of subletting, action is taken as per extant rules viz. serving notices for eviction of the outsiders residing in the railway quarters and initiating Disciplinary Proceedings against the staff responsible for subletting. In this case also similar action has been initiated and there has been no case of selective serving of eviction notices.

(e) and (f) Colony Committee set up are to identify the cases of un-authorized occupation/subletting of quarters and carry out necessary investigations and the position is monitored by the Estate Officer.

#### Laying of Railway Lines in HP

5277. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway routes proposed for laying railway lines during 1997-98 in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced; and

(c) the funds provided for this purpose during the current Financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The work would be progressed on Nangal Dam-Talwara new line in Himachal Pradesh during 1997-98.

(b) As soon as land is made available by Himachal Pradesh Government.

(c) Rs. 5.00 crores.

[Translation]

#### Village Panchayats without Postal Facilities

5278. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayat in Bihar, which have not been provided with the facilities of post and telegraph, district-wise; and

(b) the number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva and Telegraph offices set up likely to be set up by the Government in Bihar during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98, District-wise; and

(c) the details of the time bound programmes prepared by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of village Panchayats in Bihar which do not have post and telegraph facilities is 3207 and 8398 respectively. The district-wise details are given in attached statement I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) The district-wise number of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras set up in Bihar during 1996-97 has been shown in attached statement-III. There is no proposal at this stage for any Sanchar Sewa Kendra in 1997-98.

Post Offices are opened as Plan activity under Annual Plan Scheme subject to availability of resources and norm based justification. During the Annual Plan 1997-98 it is proposed to open 40 Extra-departmental Branch Post Offices and 5 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Bihar.

No telegraph office was set up in Bihar during the year 1996-97. There is no policy to provide telegraph facility in every village Panchayat as it is provided on the basis of demand and justification of volume of traffic.

#### Statement-I

*District-wise number of Village Panchayat in Bihar which do not have Postal facilities*

Sl. No.	Name of District	Total number of village Panchayat where postal facilities have not been provided
1	2	3
1.	Saran	38
2.	Vaishali	105
3.	Bhojpur	40
4.	Buxar	16
5.	Gaya	129
6.	Nawada	33
7.	Jehanabad	42
8.	Nalanda	26
9.	Bhagalpur	56
10.	Banka	46
11.	Patna	103
12.	Begusarai	36
13.	Khagaria	16
14.	Darbhanga	69
15.	East Champaran	130
16.	West Champaran	42
17.	Madhubani	69
18.	Munger	55
19.	Lakhisarai	16
20.	Sheikhpura	17
21.	Jamui	44
22.	Muzaffarpur	53
23.	Araria	49
24.	Katihar	51
25.	Kishanganj	33
26.	Purnea	71
27.	Saharsa	25
28.	Madhepura	25
29.	Supaul	24
30.	Siwan	18
31.	Gopalganj	60
32.	Sitamarhi	40
33.	Sheohar	13
34.	Samastipur	44
35.	Dumka	90
36.	Pakur	25
37.	B. Deoghar	74
38.	Godda	74