

conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the unemployment situation both for all India as well as for the State of Gujarat reveals down-ward trend during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94. The unemployment rate which was of the order of 3.77% in 1987-88 has come down to 2.56% in 1993-94 for the country as a whole. Similarly for Gujarat State, the unemployment rate has come down from 2.57% to 1.89% during the period under reference.

(c) There is need to enhance employment opportunities for the poor. In this context, the 9th Plan will seek to implement a national Employment Assurance Scheme.

The approach to the 9th Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concerned sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour inter regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

#### **Inflow of Tourists**

2014. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Tourists Inflow on the decline" appearing in the "Assam Tribune" dated February 17, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's ambitious plan to increase the flow of tourists to Assam through tea tourism is bound to peter out as no one will consider it wise to visit the State tea gardens which have remained soft targets for various insurgent outfits;

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been chalked out to ease out the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) It is reported in the news item that the recent spate of violence in the State of Assam has resulted in decline in tourist inflow to the State.

(d) and (e) The State Government has indicated that security measures have been taken to improve the law and order situation in the State and to attract more tourists by holding tea tourism festival.

#### **Allocation for Lilabari Airport**

2015. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the upgradation of Lilabari Airport;

(b) the agency entrusted with the task to implement the project;

(c) the present status of the work relating to construction of runway and terminal building; and

(d) the reasons for delay in the progress of work?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Lilabari Airport has been identified for upgradation during the ninth plan period for domestic operations. Construction of a new terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs.14.50 crores is likely to be completed by July, 1999 and strengthening and extension of runway upto 7500 ft. at a cost of Rs.13.90 crores is likely to be completed by September, 1998.

#### **Development of Sabarmati Railway Station**

2016. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:  
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of overcrowding at Ahmedabad Railway Station and limited scope for its expansion due to paucity of space;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal for development of nearby Sabarmati Railway Station to ease the overcrowding at Ahmedabad Railway Station; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **ITI-Palghat Unit**

2017. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute crisis being faced by the Palghat Unit of Indian Telephone Industries; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to save this unit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) as a whole including its Palghat Unit is facing problems of under utilisation of capacities, reduction in prices of Telecom. Equipment and paucity of financial resources.

The following major steps have been taken to help the Company:

(i) 20 to 30% of the DOT Orders are kept reserved for ITI. The Company can also secure more orders by way of participation in the Tenders floated by the DOT.

(ii) The advance payment against Purchase Orders has

been enhanced from 50 to 75% for a period upto 31.3.1997.

(iii) An adhoc amount of Rs.62 crores has been paid to the Company on account of liquidated damages and other financial issues.

#### Reduction in Percentage of Freight Traffic In Railways

2018. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of freight traffic in Railways is reduced considerably over the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such reduction;

(c) the quantity and the amount of freight traffic handled by Railways during the last three years, zone-wise;

(d) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to boost more freight traffic in Railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Freight traffic is increasing steadily over the years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The freight traffic handled by Railways during the last three years is as under:

Railway	(In million tonne)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Central	36.04	37.11	38.51
Eastern	70.88	72.03	73.39
Northern	24.99	21.47	25.94
N. Eastern	2.88	2.33	3.03
N. Frontier	5.79	6.53	7.21
Southern	19.02	19.27	21.02
S. Central	40.30	35.73	36.68
S. Eastern	131.50	141.72	155.50
Western	27.32	28.77	29.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>358.72</b>	<b>364.96</b>	<b>390.69</b>

(d) and (e) Close liaison is being maintained both with the rail user organisations as well as the concerned Ministries/Departments for maximum movement of traffic by rail. Through containers and introduction of Special containers trains efforts are being made to pick up all possible traffic. Close monitoring is done right from field level to Railway Ministry for smooth movement of freight traffic.

[*Translation*]

#### Minerals In Madhya Pradesh

2019. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh has vast reserves of mineral resources;

(b) if so, whether the Geological Survey of India have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of mines in the state;

(e) whether the Government propose to nationalise the mines in the state; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As on going activities, Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts geological surveys and investigations in Madhya Pradesh.

During the last three years GSI identified reserves of low Silica dolomite in Sagar-Chhatarpur district; zinc ore in Betul district; Gold ore in Raigarh, Bastar and Raipur districts; Diamond bearing Kimberlite in Panna, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Raigarh, Bastar and Raipur districts; Bauxite in Raigarh district Molybdenum in Chhatarpur district; Tungsten ore in Raigarh and Betul districts; Base metals in Satna-Chhatarpur, Balaghat and Hoshangabad districts; Manganese ore in Balaghat district besides Granite and other dimensional stones in parts of Sagar, Panna, Chhatarpur, Mandla, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Betul districts.

(d) Various individuals/agencies are engaged in exploitation of minerals in the State. Further, any entrepreneur is free to exploit mineral resources in accordance with the provisions of MM(R&D) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder and the New Mineral Policy, 1993 announced by the Government of India.

(e) Government of India have not received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to nationalise the mines in the State.

(f) Question does not arise.

#### Complaints Regarding Irregularities

2020. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of have received complaints regarding the irregularities in providing telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.