

(d) what were the main reasons; and

(e) what steps the Government proposes to check such type of air intrusions in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir. No incident concerning violation of Indian airspace by civil aircraft of other countries has been reported.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Committee on Mines and Minerals Act, 1957**

2048. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a committee to consider lacunae in the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other terms of reference of the committee;

(c) the composition of the committee; and

(d) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The Central Government have constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines), Government of India with Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines as Vice Chairman, Mining Secretaries of State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam and Himachal Pradesh, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines as Members and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines as Member Secretary. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences/Mining Leases. The Committee is also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of Prospecting Licence/Mining Leases and measures to prevent illegal mining. The Committee is expected to submit its report as early as possible.

#### **Development of Hotels and Tourist Oriented Projects in Karnataka**

2049. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that India Tourism Development Corporation intend to develop hotels and other tourist oriented projects in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the ITDC had approached the Government of Karnataka in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of places where these tourist oriented projects are proposed to be taken up in Karnataka by ITDC; and

(d) the number of new hotels proposed to be opened by ITDC at Bangalore and Mysore during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) In pursuance of its Jt. Venture Scheme, ITDC intend to undertake some tourism projects in the country including Karnataka in collaboration with the respective state govts. subject to commercial viability. In this regard, ITDC also approached the state govt. of Karnataka but they expressed their reservation about the Jt. Venture scheme.

(c) and (d) ITDC's Annual Plan 1997-98 does not include any specific plan scheme/provision for setting up any new hotel project in the state, including Bangalore and Mysore.

#### **Tourism Potential**

2050. SHRI P. KODANDARAMAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether internal tourism potential is ignored in preference to external potential;

(b) if so, the revenue earned from the external tourism and its comparison with the revenue earned from internal tourism;

(c) the number of foreigners and the number of Indians visited each place of historical and tourist importance during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote the historical places providing amenities to tourists;

(e) whether the Government propose to preserve the Chitradurga Fort and building tourist infrastructure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The fact that Domestic tourism is the main stay for Indian tourism, is well recognised by the Government, though, it does not bring any additional revenue to the country. It, however, helps in the development of remote areas through the distribution of wealth. The estimated foreign exchange earnings from International tourism during the last three years is provided below:

Year	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rupees in crores)
1994	7103.53
1995	8640.02
1996	10061.36

Reliable Tourist Statistics in respect of the places of historical and tourist importance are not available.

(d) to (f) The promotion of historical places and providing of amenities to tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. The Government has not received any proposal from the State Govt. of Karnataka to preserve Chitradurga Fort.

#### **Licences to Rail Travellers Service Agents**

2051. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards news item captioned 'Railway Licenses allotted out of turn' appearing in the Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad edition) dated February 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct CBI enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As per the "Rail Travellers' Service Agent Rules, 1985" licences for working as Rail Traveller's Service Agents are granted based on the applications received from the various applicants subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions which include:

(i) in possession of the latest income tax clearance certificate;

(ii) having office and premises properly maintained with adequate convenience and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and

(iii) not convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude;

South Central Railway granted licences to act as Rail Travellers' Service Agents to a few applicants based on the applications received by them through the Ministry of Railways in accordance with the above rules. During January, 1996, the South Central Railway had called for the applications for appointment of 39 additional Rail Travellers' Service Agents through press notification. A high level Committee of Senior Administrative Grade officers was constituted to examine and scrutinise the recommendation submitted by the Junior Administrative Grade Officers at Divisional Level for this purpose. Selection process has been completed for appointment of 31 additional Rail Travellers Service Agents over Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal and Hubli Divisions and the name of the selected agents have been advised to the Divisions on 28.2.97. The selection process of Rail Travellers' Service Agents over Hyderabad Division has been taken up.

(c) The selection for appointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents is being done strictly as per the extant guidelines by the South Central Railway.

(d) and (e) The factual position does not warrant a C.B.I. Enquiry in this regard.

[Translation]

#### **Postal Distribution System**

2052. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the time when the Government have reviewed the Postal distribution system in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The mail delivery system in the country in general and rural areas in particular is constantly monitored and periodically reviewed at the field and Headquarters level.

(b) The Postal distribution system in the rural areas is generally satisfactory but occasional delays in delivery of mails do occur due to unforeseen transportation problems, natural calamities etc. which are beyond the control of the Department.

(c) The reasons for delays to mails, if any are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels and the routing and delivery system of mails streamlined wherever necessary.

#### **Stalls at Sambhal Railway Station**

2053. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stalls at Sambhal Railway Station (Northern Railways) at present;

(b) whether it is not in accordance with the demand of passengers;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to allot new stalls;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) There is one tea stall at Sambhal Railway Station which is considered adequate in accordance with the passenger's requirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.