

Extension of 4003/4004 Express upto New Delhi has also not been found feasible due to operational constraints including terminal facilities at New Delhi.

Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Railway Section

5209. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned in principle and are allocating funds for electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds already spent and progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the targetted date of completion of the electrification work of above section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Road section of South Eastern Railway is covered in electrification projects of Kharagpur-Bhubneswar and Bhubneswar-Visakhapatnam sections.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred upto 31.3.97. However, allocation of Rs. 46.53 crores has been made for these works in the budget for the year 97-98.

(d) The target for completion is March '2002.

Air's Share in International Traffic

5210. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady fall in Air India's share in International Traffic from and to India while other Airlines improved their position;

(b) the reasons for dismal performance of Air India; and

(c) the steps taken for boosting growth of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) While the number of passengers carried by Air India has not declined, its market share has come down from 24.5% in 1990 to 23.1% in 1995, as the airline has not been able to grow at the same rate as the international traffic.

(c) To increase its market share, Air India is taking steps to augment capacity, intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Expansion of Flights

5211. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India and Indian Airlines have plans to renew and expand their flights during 9th Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific proposals in that regard for the year 1997-98; and

(d) the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

Air Bus-300 and Boeing-737 Aircraft

5212. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air-Bus-300 and Boeing-737 aircraft which forms part of the fleet of Indian Airlines are only aging flying machines;

(b) if so, the period for which each such aircraft has been on wings, indicating their optimum safe flight period or mile-age of flights; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Introduction of Train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi

5213. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi for the convenience of the people of Nalanda, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi, people have to go to Patna from remote places; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) 6 pairs of train including Rajdhani Expresses connect Gaya and Delhi. Introduction of a train between Gaya and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible due to operational including terminal/maintenance constraints at both Gaya

and Delhi besides resource constraints.

[English]

Promotion of SC/ST Officers

5214. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the promotions of several SC/ST officers are held up on account of pre-judicial acts of Senior Officials leading to adverse confidential reports and conducted enquiries etc;

(b) whether to mitigate the hardships of the affected officers the Government had given assurance in Parliament during last Budget Session for setting up a high-power Committee for reviewing all the pending cases and screening all such cases in future;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has been formed so far; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Facilities of Pantry Cars in Long Distance Trains

5215. SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are attaching pantry cars in most of the long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the waiters of immobile catering units stops supplying food materials in the above trains when pantry cars are attached with them;

(c) if so, whether the loss suffered by the catering units due to stopping of the supply of food materials is compensated;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to give this contract to only immobile catering contractors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The passengers are free to meet their food requirements from the static units or mobile units.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. As per policy, pantry car licences are awarded by inviting applications through Press notifications for which static catering licences can also apply.

Proposal to Stop the Flights

5216. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop the flights on some routes due to lack of aircrafts in the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative measure taken for resuming the air service in these areas on which flights have been stopped?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Declaration of Trimbakeshwar as Centrally Sponsored Tourism Centre

5217. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests or representations to declare Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra as centrally sponsored Tourism Centre; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Identification and development of Tourist Centres is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Department of Tourism has not received any representation to declare Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra as centrally sponsored Tourism Centre.

Agitation against TISCO

5218. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the ongoing agitation against the proposed Mega Steel projects of TISCO at Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) whether the Union Government have given clearance for the projects;

(c) whether Government propose to send an experts team to Gopalpur to explore the possibility of alternative site for the projects in view of the mass protest against the selection of the present site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) According to the Government of Orissa, there is some agitation, against the proposed steel project of TISCO at Gopalpur in Orissa.