

AAI has constructed temporary cargo complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.86 lakhs. AAI has also identified a site for the construction of a permanent cargo complex.

**Formed Alliance Air as an Associate Company**

3018. SHRI ISWAR PRASNNA HAZARIKA :  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formed Alliance Air as an associate company of Indian Airlines;

(b) whether it is proposed to hand over the entire fleet of Boeing 737 aircrafts for operation by Alliance Air;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether operations of Alliance Air are proposed to be largely concentrated on the North Eastern region;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to develop a Hub or operational base for Boeing 737s at Guwahati; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Alliance Air is the brand name of airline operated by Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL), a wholly owned subsidiary set up by Indian Airlines Limited in 1983. Alliance Air commenced airline operations w.e.f. 15th of April, 1996.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Alliance Air was set up to increase the utilisation of Boeing 737 aircraft fleet by increased availability of Commanders. Indian Airlines service offered with the Boeing 737 aircraft have been transferred to Alliance Air from the 10th of February, 1997.

(d) No, Sir. Alliance Air operates in all parts of the country including the North Eastern Region.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

**Air Accidents Involving Private Air Services**

3019. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air accidents involving private air services during the past two years;

(b) the number of casualties suffered in such accidents;

(c) whether these airlines generally are not maintaining the safety norms; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) During past two years from 1st March, 1995,

to 28th February, 1997, there have been 5 accidents involving private air services.

(b) 10 persons were killed in these accidents.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Steps such as conducting safety audit of operators, monitoring of flight recorders, conducting safety seminars/meetings, carrying out spot checks on ground and in-flight checks, implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, appropriate action against the defaulters, etc. are continuously taken to enhance the level of air safety.

**Disparity in Postal Facilities**

3020. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide disparity in postal facilities between urban and rural areas and also among States;

(b) if so, the comparison of population covered by the post offices in rural and urban areas as on 1.4.1996, State-wise;

(c) the number of additional rural and urban post offices sanctioned for 1996-97, State-wise;

(d) the estimated population likely to be covered by post offices in rural and urban areas as on 1.4.1997; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in reducing this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Post Offices are opened on norm based justification. There is some disparity in population served per Post Office in urban and rural areas which is due to the density of population in urban areas.

The position of population served per Post Office in urban and rural areas, State-wise is given in the attached Statement.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

*Comparison of Population Covered by the post offices in Rural and Urban Areas as on 1.4.1996 State-Wise*

S.No	Name of the States	Population served per Post Office in urban Areas	Population served per Post in rural Areas
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13009	3275
2.	Assam	8266	5680

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	15698	6972
4.	Delhi	188244	92136
5.	Gujarat	17399	3328
6.	Haryana	12889	5462
7.	Himachal Pradesh	39386	18078
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6410	3352
9.	Karnataka	10289	3667
10.	Kerala	10593	496
11.	Madhya Pradesh	13491	5038
12.	Maharashtra	20072	4386
13.	North East	6077	2233
14.	Orissa	6711	3611
15.	Punjab	12683	4223
16.	Rajasthan	12515	3577
17.	Tamil Nadu	7972	3757
18.	Uttar Pradesh	13269	6209
19.	West Bengal	16637	6456

#### Sambalpur-Talcher Rail Line

3021. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in Sambalpur-Talcher rail line so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Talcher to Angul (18 kms.) and Sambalpur to Maneswar (16 kms.) sections have already been commissioned. The overall progress in 77%. The work is expected to be completed during 1997-98.

#### Electrification of Erode to Ernakulam Rail Route

3022. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to Electrify railway routes from Erode to Ernakulam Junction;

(b) if so, the total estimated cost and total distance in kilometre thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The total estimated cost of electrification of Erode-Ernakulam section is Rs. 150.97 crores and total distance is 324 route kilometres.

(c) The section is targetted for completion by March' 2000.

#### Delhi Telephone Directory

3023. DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in releasing the Delhi Telephone Directory and when it is likely to be issued to the public;

(b) whether it is a fact that telephone number of local telephone services are not at all available when required;

(c) whether the telephone numbers of various area Officers, right from the G.M are not available during office hours; and

(d) if so, the efforts proposed to be made to improve the efficiency of MTN Limited?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) After supply of 1994 issue of Directory, the Contractor failed to supply the subsequent issues. The contract has therefore to be cancelled and fresh tenders were floated in 1996. A single offer received was not found viable after avaluation. Therefore the tenders were floated again which have been opened on 4.3.97 and are under evaluation. The directory will be supplied within 6 to 9 months of finalisation of tender.

(b) No, Sir. The Directory enquiry service (No.197) is available round the clock.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Officers are available during office hours except when they go out for field visits, meetings and inspections. In their absence, their personal staff attached to these officers attend the telephone calls.

#### Sickness of Neelachal -Ashok Hotel

3024. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hotel Neelachal-Ashok, Puri has fallen sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to rescue the Hotel from sickness; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and