

Railways. In deserving cases, permission to travel in First AC Class and also for taking a companion in the same class/second class is also given. The passes issued are valid for one year only, except in deserving and exceptional cases as decided by the Minister of Railways.

Complimentary Card Passes are available over one or more Zonal Railways with validity period usually not exceeding one year at a time. The Card Pass entitles the holder to perform rail journeys from any station to any station and any number of times.

(d) Yes, Sir.

- (e) (i) Former Members of Parliament
 (ii) Arjuna Award Winners, Olympic Medalists and Gold Medalists of Asian and Commonwealth Games.
 (iii) Presidents and Secretaries of National Sports Federations (NSFs) and State Olympic Associations (SOAs) affiliated to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
 (iv) Recipients of Gallantry Award and widows of winners of Gallantry Awards (Chakra series)
 (v) Complimentary Card Passes at the discretion of the Minister of Railways to organisations and individuals.

(f) No cases of misutilisation of free passes/train concession passes have come to notice during the last six months.

(g) The ticket checking staff have standing instructions to treat persons travelling with improper tickets/free passes/train concession passes as per extant rules and charge them accordingly.

[Translation]

Time Allotted to Nepali Programmes

228. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time allotted to each day to Nepali Programmes on Doordarshan in various States particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal to increase the time allotted to Nepali programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Only Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta (West Bengal) is telecasting Nepali programmes for a duration of 10 minutes on every Monday, Wednesday, Friday

and 15 minutes on every Tuesday. No Nepali programme is being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai in Maharashtra

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Norms for Telecasting Epic Serials

229. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for telecast of epic serials on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government propose to serialise and telecast Hindi serials on ancient and classic dramas in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the details of the plans proposed to be drawn up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No separate norms are fixed for telecast of epic serials on Doordarshan and the proposals for such serials are considered under sponsored category by the Selection Committee alongwith other proposals

(b) The proposals for telecast of Hindi serials on ancient and classic dramas in Gujarat, as and when received, will be considered by the Selection Committee alongwith other such proposals

(c) Doordarshan will continue to endeavour, as in the past, to select such sponsored serials which propagate high socio-cultural values, seek to inculcate in the viewers equal respect for different religions, promote national integration and provide wholesome entertainment.

Lackness of Air Transport Services

230. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of adequate and quality air transport services has hampered the country's potential for tourism development and growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ensure that air transport services grow in a balanced manner throughout the country, route dispersal guidelines have been issued requiring operators of trunk routes to provide capacity on other routes also including the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and