

their issue quite vehemently. This list of contract labourers is not usually available with the Railways but the Railways have got hold of the list of such labourers and after taking charge of this Ministry, I have decided to have them re-instated and to consider their cases.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Air Services for U.P. Cities

*205. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the major cities of Uttar Pradesh have been linked with air-services;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether requests have been made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, several political organisations and representatives of people to construct some airports in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) :

(a) Indian Airlines is operating scheduled services to Agra, Varanasi and Lucknow. Sahara India Airlines operates to Lucknow and Varanasi. Private airlines used to operate to Allahabad and Kanpur, but have suspended operations recently.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Requests have been received for construction of airports/operation of flights from Bareilly, Chitrakoot, Faizabad, Jaunpur and Kashipur.

(e) and (f). Bareilly is a defence airfield and there is no civil enclave. Construction of new airports at Chitrakoot, Jaunpur and Kashipur, which are located within a short distance from existing airports is not economically viable. Faizabad has an airport which belongs to the State Government. No airline has shown interest in operating scheduled services to either Bareilly or Faizabad.

Patriotic Films

*206. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of patriotic films;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of patriotic films produced and telecast during the last two years;

(d) whether the Government propose to promote the production of such films in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) the production of feature films is mainly in the private sector and the producers themselves decide the themes of their films. However, a person desiring to exhibit a film has to obtain a certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification. The Board does not classify the theme of a film under the category 'patriotic'. Therefore, it is not possible to say whether there is any increase or decline in the production of 'patriotic' feature films. In the recent past, there were some films which had elements of patriotism in them such as "1942 A LOVE STORY", "HINDUSTANI", "SAZA-E-KALAPANI", "THE MAKING OF THE MAHATMA", etc.

In so far as documentary films produced by the Films Division are concerned, the Division has, since its inception, produced and continues to produce films on freedom struggle, freedom fighters and patriots. These include films on Mahatma Gandhi, Lokpriya Gopinath Bardoloi, Sheikh Abdullah, Asaf Ali, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Chaudhary Charan Singh Morarji Desai, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, etc. There is no decline in production of such films by the Films Division.

(c) The information is not available in respect of feature films in view of parts (a) and (d) above. However, the number of documentary films/newsmagazines on freedom struggle, freedom fighters and patriots produced by the Films Division during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is 20. These films are also meant for telecast by Doordarshan.

(d) and (e). As mentioned above, the production of feature films is mainly in the private sector and it is for the producers to choose the themes. It is not the policy of Government to intervene in this regard.

The following documentary films are on the production programme of the Films Division:-

1. M.N. Roy (Parts I and II)
2. Babu Jagjivan Ram
3. Sardar Patel
4. Andhra Kesari T. Prakasam
5. Amar Shahid Bhagat Singh
6. Manapursh Shankar Deva
7. Jyoti Prasad Agarwal
8. Dr. Radhanath Rath
9. Baba Prithivisingh Azad
10. Gandhiji Through the Eyes of Cartoonists
11. Gandhiji as an Universal Man

12. Contribution of Maharashtra in Freedom Struggle
13. Contribution of Assam in Freedom Struggle
14. Karmaveer Gauri Shankar Roy (S.V.)
15. Contribution of Kerala in Freedom Movement
16. Nehru through the eyes of Cartoonist.

[English]

STD/ISD/PCO in Delhi

*207. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private/Government STD/ISD/PCO booths in Delhi;

(b) the waiting list for allotment of these booths as on November, 1996;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the allotment is made strictly on eligibility;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of STD/ISD/PCO booths working in Delhi as on 31st October, 1996 is 5976.

(b) 773 applications for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths are pending.

(c) By March, 1997.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) STD/PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons. Minimum educational qualifications is Matric/High School Pass for urban areas (8th Pass for rural areas). Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen/War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependants of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(f) Does Not arise.

Railway Line from Port Blair to Diglipur

*208. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has recently conducted a survey for the proposed railway line from Port Blair in South Andaman Islands to Diglipur in North Andamans Islands;

(b) if so, the length of the proposed railway line, its traffic potential and the estimated cost involved in its construction;

(c) whether the proposed Rail link will pose a serious threat to Andamans ecology and cause incalculable damage to Andamans environment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) A survey has been taken up.

(b) Will be known after the survey is completed.

(c) and (d). The ecological and environmental aspects would be duly considered before taking up any rail link in the area.

[Translation]

Mini Satellite Connection for Bihar

*209. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme was formulated for connecting four important places of tourist importance in Bihar with Mini-Satellite for providing better telephone service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether tenders have been invited to set up Tower in Netarhat;

(d) if so, the reasons for not setting up Tower so far; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide separate STD code for Netarhat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme has been formulated using Multiple Channel Per Carrier-Very Small Aperture Satellite Termin (MCPC-VSAT) for providing long distance media to remote places for better telephone service.

(b) The following are four important places of tourist importance in Bihar where MCPC-VSAT has been planned :

1. Netarhat
2. Valmikinagar
3. Madhuban (Parasnath)
4. Raneshwar

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In the light of provision of Multi Channel Per Carrier-Very Small Aperture Satellite Termin (MCPC-VSAT) at Netarhat, Tower is not required.

(e) The allotted STD code for Netarhat is 06523.