

C. Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)

The modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant (Stage I) is being implemented through 4 main global packages and 34 indigenous packages. Design engineering, civil and structural work for the various packages are nearing completion. Equipment supply and its erection are in progress. The modernisation is likely to be completed by July, 1997 as per schedule.

The approval Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the project is Rs 1792.90 crore. The cumulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs 1004.38 crore.

Air Services to Remote and Backward Areas

1085 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has recently taken a serious note of some of the private scheduled airlines not adhering commitments to operate services to the remote and backward areas.

(b) if so the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure strict action against those private airlines not adhering to the commitments, and

(d) if so the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Airlines operators are free to choose their routes. However in accordance with the route dispersal guidelines laid down by the Government all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North East Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep at least 10% of their capacity deployed on trunk routes. Action is taken against the defaulting airlines who fail to adhere to the said guidelines.

Recently M/s. Modiluft and M/s. Sahara India Airlines operations were cut on trunk routes to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

[Translation]

Free Railway Passes to Freedom Fighters

1086 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of freedom fighters to whom free railway passes have been issued during 1995-96 till date alongwith the class of railway journey in which they are entitled to travel, and

(b) the total amount of expenditure borne by railways during each of the last three years due to the extension of above facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a)

No. of freedom fighters	Class of entitlement
47,849	I/II AC

(b) The cost of card passes issued to freedom fighters is borne by Ministry of Home Affairs, which is as under for last three years :

1993-94	=	Rs 53.04 crores
1994-95	=	Rs 44.88 crores
1995-96 (upto July '96)	=	Rs 65.40 crores

Claims Received by Chief Commercial Officer (Claims)

1087. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of different claims received in the office of the Chief Commercial Officer (Claims) Northern Railway from January 1996 till date, and

(b) the number of claims disposed of/pending out of these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 37346 Claims cases have been registered by 31.10.1996.

(b) Number of Claims cases disposed is 32406 and number of pending Claims cases is 4940.

[English]

Telephone Tapping

1088. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether a CBI enquiry was instituted under the instructions of the Prime Minister into the allegations of tapping of telephones of VIPs in Delhi;

(b) if so the details of the allegations made;

(c) whether CBI has since submitted its report;

(d) if so the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CBI has informed that newspaper reports had appeared in the Asian Age and Sunday Times dated 4.8.96 alleging that telephones of many political leaders are being tapped. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India directed CBI to conduct an impartial enquiry into the alleged telephone tapping during the period from 1.6.1996 onwards. The Special Crime Branch-I of CBI registered a case on 7.8.96.