

(c) whether other private airlines have also sought permission to raise their fares; and

(d) if so, the details of the private operators that have increased their air fares and freight ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air domestic fares were increased with effect from 15th October, 1997 as under :

- |                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| (i) (a) North Eastern Sectors | 10.5% |
| (b) Rest of India             |       |
| Sectors upto 700 kms.         | 14.0% |
| Sectors above 700 kms.        | 10.5% |
- (ii) The differential between the Executive and Economy Class fares has been kept at 50%
- (iii) The total amount to be collected from passengers in INR has been rounded upto the next higher multiple of Rs.5/-.
- (iv) Excess Baggage Rates have been revised accordingly.
- (v) Basic Cargo Rates have also been revised accordingly.

(c) and (d) Airline operators are free to charge fares based on commercial considerations.

#### **Transfer of General Managers**

447. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:  
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :  
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had ordered transfer of two General Managers in September, 1997 immediately after the railway accident took place;

(b) if so, whether these transfers were greatly opposed by the Railway officers who went on mass casual leave in protest;

(c) the loss suffered by the railway as result thereof;

(d) whether he had taken a serious view and has ordered a break in service of those official who went on mass casual leave;

(e) if so, the total number of railway officers involved; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Government had decided to transfer General Manager South Eastern Railway and General Manager Central Railway in administrative interest.

(b) and (c) In the wake of transfer orders, though a few officers had proceeded on casual leave but it was ensured that normal Railway working was neither affected nor allowed to suffer.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and on receipt of the same further action will be taken as per rules on the subject.

(f) All the Railway servants are governed by the Railway Servants (Conduct) Rules and action in terms of these Rules is taken wherever warranted and permitted by the Rules.

#### **Revamping of Bokaro Steel Plant**

448. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the tough competition with new competitors in the Steel market, Bokaro Steel Plant is planning to tap the emerging automobile and white goods sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the SAIL has approached any foreign company for the revamping of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(d) whether any American company has agreed for setting up of an electro galvanising unit at Bokaro ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Bokaro Steel Plant is getting orders from the automobile and white goods sectors. These sectors require Extra Deep Drawing (EDD) grade of steel, the production of which will further improve after completion of 1st stage modernisation of the Bokaro Steel Plant.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) USS Engineers & Consultant (UEC), an American Company visited Bokaro Steel Plant in September, 1997 to study the feasibility of modernisation of galvanising line. No concrete proposal has been received.