

meetings, inspection of aerodromes etc. are continuously taken to enhance air safety.

Private Airlines

937. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services rendered by private airlines in the country is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the air services on Nagpur-Bombay and Bombay-Delhi routes which are presently operated by private airlines are completely unsatisfactory and there are demands that Indian Airlines should start its operation on these routes; and

(d) if so, the action taken/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) and (b). There have been some complaints relating to cancellation of flights, punctuality, etc. against private airlines.

(c) and (d). Besides private operators, Indian Airlines is already operating on Nagpur-Mumbai and Mumbai-Delhi sectors.

Services of Handicapped

938. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of handicapped on Television Broadcasting;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted or proposed to be made to find out such persons; and

(c) 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) Television being a visual medium, there is no bar for engaging persons who are otherwise qualified if their handicap were not to interfere with the discharge of their duties/performance. However, many handicapped persons are being provided opportunities to participate in music programmes and to act in serials and telefilms etc. depending on requirements of the programme/script.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

ISD and STD Lines

939. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket involving ISD and STD call

bills amounting to crores of rupees passed on to various subscribers in connivance with the MTNL employees has been unearthed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those found involved in the racket?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) One case each in Bombay and Delhi for diversion of telephone lines with the connivance of MTNL employees was detected during 1995 and 1996 respectively.

(b) In Delhi some staff of MTNL were found to be involved in illegal diversion of telephones with STD/ISD through Jor Bagh Exchange by the CBI during the investigation in April, 96.

In Bombay, one telephone was diverted for giving STD/ISD calls by an MTNL employee. The loss incurred was to the tune of Rs 23 lakhs.

(c) In Delhi, 4 officials involved in diversion were arrested by CBI and subsequently placed under suspension. The private person involved was also subsequently arrested. Further investigation by CBI is in progress.

In Bombay, one Mazdoor was arrested on 11.9.95 and suspended the same day. The official has been prosecuted in the Court of Law by the CBI. Also, disciplinary action for major penalty has been initiated against a Phone Inspector involved in the same case.

Supply of Essential Commodities

940. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of essential commodities supplied to the consumers through Public Distribution System in the North-Eastern States, particularly in Assam;

(b) whether the irregular and inadequate supply of these essential commodities is the root cause of price-rise of consumer goods;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of these items at reasonable price;

(d) whether there is any demand to add some more commodities namely Janata Cloth through Public Distribution System; and

(e) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). The Central Government makes allocation of rice, wheat, sugar, imported edible oil, soft/CIL coke and kerosene oil to States/UTs including North Eastern States for distribution through Public Distribution System

(PDS). The allocation of commodities through PDS is supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of any State/UT. The commodities are issued at fixed Central Issue Prices. The Central Government, from time to time, reviews the functioning of the PDS in various States/UTs so as to ensure regular and adequate availability of these commodities to the consumers.

(d) and (e). The Central Government has no proposal to supply Janata Cloth through PDS.

Import of Steel

941. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of steel imported during each of the last three years, and the cost involved therein.

(b) the name of importers during these years; and

(c) the countries from which such imports have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The details of saleable steel imports during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Quantity (in '000 tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	1153.1	1603
1994-95	1932.6	2536
1995-96 (Prov.)	1864.4	3175

(b) The names of some of the major importers during these years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The countries from which major imports have been made are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, CIS, Czech, E.C., Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Rep., South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, U.K., USA and Venezuela.

Names of the major importers

1. Aryan Overseas Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
2. Ashok Leyland Ltd., Madras.
3. BHEL.
4. Bajaj Auto Ltd., Pune.
5. Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels, Vizag.
6. Commet Steels Ltd., Bombay.
7. Crompton Greaves Ltd., Bombay.
8. Graham Firth Steel Products India Ltd., Bombay.
9. Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
10. Jindal Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Maharashtra.
11. Jindal Strips Pvt. Ltd., Thane.

12. Kaira Can Co. Ltd., Bombay.
13. Khanna and Company, Bombay.
14. Larsen and Tubro Ltd., Bombay.
15. Lawkim Ltd., Bombay.
16. Loyds Steel Industries Ltd., Bombay.
17. LML Ltd. Kanpur, U.P.
18. Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd., Bombay.
19. Maruti Udyog Ltd., Gurgaon.
20. Metalman Pipe Manufacturing Company (P) Ltd., Indore.
21. Nagarjuna Signode Ltd., Hyderabad.
22. Nathani Steel (P) Ltd. Bombay.
23. Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd., Nagpur.
24. O.N.G.C. Ltd.
25. Pennar Steels Ltd., Hyderabad.
26. SAIL, Salem Steel Ltd., Tamil Nadu.
27. Shetron Metals Ltd., Bangalore.
28. Shree Precoated Steels Ltd., Bombay.
29. Shree Sarbati Steel Tubes Ltd., Madras.
30. Sipta Coated Steel Ltd., Bombay.
31. Special Steels Ltd., Bombay.
32. Steelco Gujarat Ltd., Baroda.
33. Tata Engg. and Locomotive Co. Ltd., Pune.
34. Tinplate Company of India Ltd. Calcutta.
35. Trans-Freight Containers Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
36. Tube Products of India, Madras.
37. Usha Martin Industries Ltd., Calcutta.
38. Uttam Steel Ltd., Bombay.
39. Vijay Electrical, Hyderabad.
40. Wheels India Limited, Madras.

[Translation]

Production of Sugar

942. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
 SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
 SHRI PINAKI MISRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement of sugar and targets fixed for the production of sugar during the current crushing year, State-wise;

(b) the estimated quantity of sugar produced by various sugar mills so far, State-wise.

(c) whether the production of sugarcane is far more than the installed capacity of sugar production.