

and Delhi besides resource constraints.

[English]

Promotion of SC/ST Officers

5214. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the promotions of several SC/ST officers are held up on account of pre-judicial acts of Senior Officials leading to adverse confidential reports and conducted enquiries etc;

(b) whether to mitigate the hardships of the affected officers the Government had given assurance in Parliament during last Budget Session for setting up a high-power Committee for reviewing all the pending cases and screening all such cases in future;

(c) if so, whether the Committee has been formed so far; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Facilities of Pantry Cars in Long Distance Trains

5215. SHRI LAL BABU PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are attaching pantry cars in most of the long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the waiters of immobile catering units stops supplying food materials in the above trains when pantry cars are attached with them;

(c) if so, whether the loss suffered by the catering units due to stopping of the supply of food materials is compensated;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to give this contract to only immobile catering contractors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The passengers are free to meet their food requirements from the static units or mobile units.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. As per policy, pantry car licences are awarded by inviting applications through Press notifications for which static catering licences can also apply.

Proposal to Stop the Flights

5216. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop the flights on some routes due to lack of aircrafts in the Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative measure taken for resuming the air service in these areas on which flights have been stopped?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Declaration of Trimbakeshwar as Centrally Sponsored Tourism Centre

5217. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests or representations to declare Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra as centrally sponsored Tourism Centre; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Identification and development of Tourist Centres is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Department of Tourism has not received any representation to declare Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra as centrally sponsored Tourism Centre.

Agitation against TISCO

5218. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the ongoing agitation against the proposed Mega Steel projects of TISCO at Gopalpur in Orissa;

(b) whether the Union Government have given clearance for the projects;

(c) whether Government propose to send an experts team to Gopalpur to explore the possibility of alternative site for the projects in view of the mass protest against the selection of the present site; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) According to the Government of Orissa, there is some agitation, against the proposed steel project of TISCO at Gopalpur in Orissa.

(b) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, 'iron and steel industry' has been exempted from the purview of licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. Thus, an entrepreneur is not required to obtain industrial license under the New Industrial Policy to set up iron and steel plants at any location, save for the restricted locations.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Union Government at present to send an expert team to Gopalpur. The State Government of Orissa have informed that various alternative sites were considered before selecting the present site at Gopalpur which is most suitable for the proposed port-based steel plant.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Payment of Dividend

5219. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the payment of dividend has not been made to his Ministry by Air India since 1994-95;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the dividend dues of AI as on 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(d) the steps taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Air India is soon likely to pay dividend of Rs. 8.00 crores for the year 1994-95, which it could not pay earlier due to financial crunch. In the years 1995-96 and 1996-97, the company incurred losses and therefore no dividend is payable.

Air Miss incidents

5220. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air miss incidents took place on Indian sky since the disaster of air collision of Savoï-Kazak Jumbos near Delhi and details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Ten air-miss incidents have been reported in the Indian skies since the mid-air collision between the two planes on 12.11.96. The details are as follows:

1. Between KLM 807 and UAE 82 on 16.11.96.
2. Between Indian Airlines IC-839 and IAF Boeing-737 on 3.1.97.

3. Between Indian Airlines IC-168 and Air India AI 308 on 4.1.97.

4. Between Alliance Air CD 257 and Jet Air 612 on 9.1.97.

5. Between Lufthansa LHA-761 and an unknown aircraft on 10.1.97.

6. Between Kuwait Airways KAC-365 and Air Lanka ALK-505 on 11.1.97.

7. Between Malaysian Airlines MAS-6125 and Singapore Airlines SIA 422 on 17.1.97.

8. Between Indian Airlines IC-439 and Singapore Airlines SIA-352 on 6.3.97.

9. Between Indian Airlines IC-917 and Singapore Airlines SQ-7536 on 12.3.97.

10. Between Air India AI-305 and United Airlines No. 2 on 2.4.97.

(b) The main steps taken to avoid chances of mid-air collision are: (i) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers, (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers, (iii) Monthly random analysis of ATC tape transcripts to ensure that Air Traffic Controllers use standard phraseology and follow the laid down procedure while giving instruction to aircraft, (iv) Appropriate action against Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCO) involved in ATC incidents, (v) Modernisation of Air Traffic Services at Delhi and Mumbai airport, and (vi) Proper maintenance of navigational communication and landing facilities.

Construction of Railway Quarters

5221. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway quarters constructed during the last two decades in Madras, Tiruchi and Madurai Divisions;

(b) the number of Railway staff who had applied for quarters in these divisions and are still waiting for allotment for the last 10 years and more; and

(c) when the Government propose to provide quarters to those waiting for such a long period?

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

Madras Division:	1746
Tiruchi Division:	1063
Madurai Division:	548

(b) In Madras Division 438, Tiruchi 324 and in Madurai 41 employees are in the waiting list.

(c) To increase the housing satisfaction of Zonal Railways, increasing allotments are made every year.