

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Tourism Development Cooperative Limited, now known as National Tourism Development Co-operative approached Airports Authority of India for allotment of counters at IGI Airport during 1996-97.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the capital of India Tourism Development Co-operative Limited, who were its promoter members and who are presently managing the said co-operative ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The request of the Indian Tourism Development Co-operative Ltd. in 1996-97 was for the extension of licence granted to them earlier in 1995 for providing travel and tourism related services.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Handing over of Bridge at Rajahmundry

3234. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have agreed to hand-over 130 years old bridge across the river Godavari at Rajahmundry to the State Government;

(b) if so, whether any final agreement has been reached in this regard ;

(c) if so, whether any modalities of the new arrangements have been worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The issue is still under consideration.

[Translation]

Fund Utilised by Gram Panchayat

3235. SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Gram Panchayats have not utilized the amount provided to them under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The utilization of funds by the Gram Panchayats are not monitored at the Central level. However, as per the guidelines, the implementing agencies DRDAs/Zilla Parishads, Intermediate level Panchayats and Gram Panchayats are allowed to carry over an unutilized balance equivalent to 25% of their allocated. If the carry over funds are more than 25% of the allocation funds during a particular year, DRDAs/ZPs can impose a cut in the share of Gram Panchayats and Intermediate level Panchayats to the extent of excess unspent balance at the time of release of the second instalment during the next year.

[English]

Air Concessions to Handicapped Citizens

3236. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India/Indian Airlines give concession in air fare to the Physically Handicapped/Blind citizens on the lines of Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines gives 50% discount on fares to Blind persons on its domestic sectors and India-Nepal Sector. However, the airlines does not give any concessions in fare to other Physically Handicapped Persons. No international airlines including Air India however gives any concession in fares to Physically Handicapped and Blind persons.

Fare of Rajdhani Express

3237. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers travelling from Calicut to Nizamuddin by Rajdhani Express are charged the same fare right from Cochin itself; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken to rectify this anomaly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rail fares are different from Calicut to Nizamuddin and from Earnakulam (Cochin) to Nizamuddin by Rajdhani Express.