

[Translation]

Renovation/Modernisation of Railway Stations

3290. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI VAIKO :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the railway stations which have been expanded/upgraded/renovated/modernised/developed during each of the last three years, zone/division-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon ;

(c) the name of railway stations where renovation/modernisation work is in progress; and

(d) the name of railway stations proposed to be renovated/modernised during 1998-99 and the amount earmarked for this purpose ?

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) There are more than 7000 railway stations of different classes all over Indian Railways. Upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken every year wherever warranted on condition basis. Station-wise expenditure is not kept. During 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 expenditure of Rs 87.98 crore Rs. 87.96 crores and Rs. 89.33 crore respectively was incurred on this account.

Information with regard to major modernisation works in progress and new works approved for the current year at various railway stations are included in the Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Part II presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations during the current year. Out of this Rs. 18.78 crores is earmarked for new works during 1998-99.

Steel Development Fund

3291. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of grant or loan made available from Steel Development Fund for research and development in the field of steel during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any time schedule for the payment of loans; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The amounts of grant or loan made available from Steel Development Fund for research and development in the field of Steel during the last 3 years are as follows :

1995-96

Rs. 50.00 lakhs - grant

1996-97

Rs. 19.30 lakhs - grant

1997-98

Rs. 19.20 lakhs - grant

(b) There is no time-schedule for disbursement of loan.

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

Compensation for Land acquired for Defence use in U.P.

3292. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has acquired a large area of land of Ubhari village and also the land along Allahabad-Kaushambi road for use of Allahabad-Bamrauli Airport;

(b) if so, whether the requisite compensation for the land has been paid;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct another road for public in place of the Allahabad-Kaushambi road; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) and (b) As per available records, 648.61 acres of land in village Umari and not in the village Ubhari alongwith other villages and land along the Allahabd Kaushambi Road was acquired in 1945-46 for use of Air Force Bamrauli. The compensation for the land had been paid in full.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal at present to construct another road for public in place of Allahabad-Kaushambi road by the Ministry of Defence/Indian Air Force. However, a path

way exists for the villagers through Air Force area for commuting to their land.

[English]

Encroachment of Railway Land in Delhi

3293. DR. Y.S. RAJSEKARA REDDY :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, Railway stations Paradise in hell for encroachers appearing in the Hindustan Times dated May 20, 1998 wherein it has been stated that a whopping 357 hectares of prime railway land in the capital, valued at Rs. 1500 crores has been encroached upon in the last few years;

(b) whether the Railway authorities are pleading helplessness not only in recovering what has been lost but also in preventing further encroachment;

(c) whether such large scale encroachment on Railway land including some railway platforms have severely affected passenger amenities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remove the encroachment ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. However, bonafide Railway Passengers suffer to some extent where the encroachments are very near to platforms.

(d) Removal of encroachments on Railway land is a continuous process and action is taken under the Provision of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupations) Act, 1971.

[Translation]

Expenditure Incurred on Chartered Planes

3294. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the annual expenditure incurred by Bokaro Steel Plant on the chartered planes during each of the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : Bokaro Steel Plant did not charter any aeroplane during the last two years.

[English]

Upgradation of Srinagar Airport

3295. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
SHRI M. RAJAIAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Srinagar Airport has been closed for Upgradation; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to solve the difficulties of passengers and tourists arriving there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Srinagar airport which belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) has been temporarily closed for flight operations from 8.6.98 for recarpeting of the runway. Civil flights are being operated from Awantipore Air Force Station. Airports Authority of India and IAF have provided all necessary passenger facilities as Awantipore Air Force Station.

[Translation]

Criteria for RAC and waiting list tickets

3296. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for issuing tickets against RAC and the waiting list in the Fast and Express Trains;

(b) whether the passengers having A.C. and the First Class tickets against RAC and waiting list have to travel in the second class and even in standing position on several occasions; and

(c) if so, whether the Railway Ministry propose to regulate the number of RAC's and the waiting list upto a fixed proportion of the total berths and seats reserved ?

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) The norms prescribed for issue of RAC and waiting list tickets are as under :