

opment Organisation (DRDO) have carried out conceptual design of a reusable air-breathing vehicle called 'Hyperplane'. This space plane will take off from conventional runway and accelerate from Mach 4 to Mach 8 with its scramjet engines. The demonstrator version of Hyperplane is named as 'Avtar'.

(c) 'Avtar' is in conceptual stage. Development of certain technological elements has been initiated involving academic institutions to build competence for development of 'Avtar'.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Sportsmen in Railways

3403. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to recruit young budding sportsmen through open advertisements with a view to promote sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

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) and (c) Details are being worked out and are expected to be finalised shortly.

[English]

3404. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the length of rural roads planned to be constructed during the current financial year and the allocation made in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : The Government of India do not prepare plans on the basis of length of rural roads to be constructed in the State. Construction of rural roads is the responsibility of State Governments. This Ministry has at present no funds for providing assistance to State Governments for construction of rural roads. The Planning Commission has allocated additional Central assistance to State Governments for Basic Minimum Service including construction of rural roads. The

allocation of funds for 1998-99 under Basic Minimum Services has not yet been finalised.

Maithri Housing Scheme

3405. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO have a proposal to provide loan for the EWS category of "Maithri Housing Scheme" for construction of houses in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Maithri Housing Scheme is a State sector scheme launched by the Govt. of Kerala. The scheme which is being implemented through Kerala State Housing Board envisages providing one lakh houses for economically weaker sections and low income group families in the State of Kerala. HUDCO has so far sanctioned 52 projects with a loan amount of Rs. 155.61 crores for construction of 81900 dwelling units under the Maithri Housing Scheme. The financing pattern for a house under the project is as follows :

HUDCO Loan	—	Rs. 19,000
State Govt. subsidy	—	Rs. 9,000
Beneficiary Contribution	—	Rs. 1,000
Contribution by Voluntary Organisation	—	Rs. 1,000
	Total	Rs. 30,000

Use of IAF Planes by Ministers

3406. SHRI KHARABELA SWAI :
SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Air Flights undertaken by various Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers of Defence by IAF planes during their tenure from January, 1991 to May, 1998 and the expenditure incurred thereon for official and non-official journeys, separately, year-wise;

(b) the amount of outstanding dues towards former Ministers, including Prime Ministers and other V.I.Ps as on date for use of IAF planes and the dates of their pendency;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the outstanding dues so far and the fresh efforts being made in that direction;

(d) whether some mechanism exists to categorise the visits as official or non-official; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to check such misuse ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Defence Minister, Minister of State for Defence and the Deputy Minister of Defence are entitled to use VIP flights of the IAF for discharge of their official duties. Details about the journeys and expenditure are being compiled.

(b) A statement indicating outstanding dues towards former Ministers, including the former Prime Ministers for the unofficial journeys undertaken in IAF aircraft is enclosed.

(c) As a result of concerted efforts, an amount Rs. 121.07 crores has been realised in 1997-98. Special collection drives other than the regular collection process, are undertaken to clear the arrears.

(d) and (e) Except the Prime Minister, no other dignitary is authorised to use VIP flights of the IAF for non-official journeys.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Minister	Amount Outstanding (in Rs.)	Period of pendency
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri C M Ibrahim Civil Aviation	28,13,333	Aug. 97
2.	Shri Kamalnath Environment & Forest	2,77,692	Jun 95
3.	Km Shelja Education & Culture	2,00,000	Feb 96
4.	Shri B Chaturvedi MOS (PMO)	7,83,333	Feb to Jul 96
5.	Shri PR Kumaramangalam Parliamentary Affairs	3,26,232	Oct 95
6.	Shri Matang Singh Parliamentary Affairs	13,05,000	Feb 98
7.	Shri V C Shukla Water Resources	4,60,336	May 94
8.	Shri P V R Naidu Water Resources	92,083	Nov 95
9.	Shri BS Ramoowalia Welfare	4,67,500	Dec 97
10.	Shri R L Bhatia External Affairs	3,35,849	Oct 95

1	2	3	4
11.	Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi Former Prime Minister	1,86,17,280	Jan to Feb 90
12.	Shri V P Singh Former Prime Minister	2,25,679	Oct 90
13.	Shri Chandrasekhar Former Prime Minister	5,91,31,476	Jul to Sep 91
14.	Shri P V Narasimha Rao Former Prime Minister	5,52,40,647	Oct. 95 to May 96
15.	Shri H D Deve Gowda Former Prime Minister	26,48,164	Dec 96
16.	Shri I K Gujral Former Prime Minister	3,95,986	Mar 98

Introduction of New Sleeper Class Coaches

3407. SHRI RAMESHWAR PAṬIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government contemplate to introduce Sleeper Class coaches having 4-Berth cabins and 2-Berth coupes with shutters even in day time removing side berths and middle berths from the existing SL class instead of the proposed composite First and SL class coaches; and

(b) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to solve the problem of the clientele of First Class with limited accommodation in the proposed composite class which is already extremely short of the First Class clientele due to phasing out of First Class ?

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. A new design of coach with 2 upper class four berth cabins at one end and 56 sleeper class berths in the remaining II class portion is being developed. Such coaches will be introduced in service after successful development of a prototype coach.

(b) Does not arise.

Kottur-Harihar and Munirabad-Mehaboob Nagar Railway Lines

3408. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked in the railway budget of 1997-98 for Kottur-Harihar and Munirabad-Mehaboob Nagar railway lines.