

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 :

Class	No. of berths earmarked for RAC passengers per coach	No. of Passengers to be provided RAC accommodation per coach
RAC		
IAC	Nil	Nil
2AC	2	4
1st Class	2	4
3 AC	2	4
Chair Car	Nil	Nil
Sleeper	5	10

Waiting List

Class	Upper limit for waiting list
1st AC/Executive Class	30
2 AC	100
1st Class	30
3AC/Chair Car	300* 75 in case one AC 3-tier/Chair Car running in train.
Sleeper Class	400

(b) The passengers provided RAC accommodation are allotted a proper seat which they can occupy on entraining the train. They are provided a berth falling vacant on account of not turning up of confirmed passengers. Passengers holding wait listed ticket are not permitted to board the reserved coach.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Growth of Steel Industry

3297. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Industry grew at lower rate than the GDP growth rate for the first time this year ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the measures taken to remedy the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The growth rate of finished (carbon) steel vis-a-vis Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate during the last 3 years was as under :

	Growth Rate	GDP Growth @ rate (at 1980-81 prices)
1995-96	20.08%	7.2%
1996-97	6.2%	7.5% (Q)
1997-98 (P)	(-) 0.7%	5.0% (A)

(P) – Provisional
(Q) – Quick estimates
(A) – Advance estimates
© Source : Economic Survey 1997-98.

(b) and (c) The growth of the steel sector is dependent upon the growth of the economy in general and growth of Industrial production and infrastructure sector in particular.

The major reasons for slow growth during 1997-98 in the steel sector include :

- i) Sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors;
- ii) Overall economic slow down in the country
- iii) Lack of investment by Government/private sector in major infrastructure projects;
- iv) Greater competition from imports due to reduction in custom duty for finished steel; and
- v) Dumping of finished steel in the country, particularly from CIS and South East Asian countries.

The enhanced allocation for infrastructure development, housing, power and highways proposed in the budget for 1998-99 is expected to stimulate the demand for steel.

[Translation]

Dolomite Reserve

3298. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Dolomite minerals is available in the country;

(b) the name of the places where Dolomite reserves are found in Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to explore availability of mineral in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Dolomite reserves are found in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Dolomite reserves are found in Chandrapur, Nagpur and Yeotmal districts of Maharashtra.

(c) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-station (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is