

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines offers 50% discount to all Senior Citizens who have completed 65 years of age and are residents of India. The discount is available for travel in Economy Class on domestic sectors of the Indian Airlines.

[English]

Link Roads in Farm Sector

2349. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project submitted by the State Government of Kerala for construction of link roads in the farm sector has been pending with the Union Government for its approval and financial assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Yatri Niwas at Jammu

2350. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to construct Railway Yatri Niwas at Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir); and

(b) 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Major Build-up along LAC

2351. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon the explosion of nuclear bombs at Pokharan, there has recently been a major build-up by Pakistan along the Line of Actual Control (LAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has resulted in a sudden infiltration of militants in the Kashmir Valley; and

(d) the outcome of the measures taken to meet the sudden upsurge along the LAC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are reports that just prior to Pakistani nuclear explosion, some troops and artillery were moved near the Line of Control and Indo-Pak border. Some air defence missiles were also reportedly moved to some vital areas.

(c) No, sir. However attempts of infiltration of militants increases during summer months every year.

(d) Constant vigil is maintained on the border by our troops and appropriate measures are taken to thwart any attempt of mis-adventure on the part of our adversary.

[Translation]

Suspension of Flights

2352. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Mumbai based air services suspended their flights since January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue loss suffered by Airport Authority of India due to the suspension of such flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) East West Airlines, a Mumbai-based airline has suspended operations since June, 1996. Skyline - NEPC Ltd., another Mumbai - based airline, has suspended operations since June, 1997. Further, Modiluft Ltd. And NEPC Airlines which were operating ex-Mumbai have also closed down/suspended operations.

(c) The monthly revenue loss calculated by Airports Authority of India on account of the suspension of such flights is Rs. 72.34 lakhs.

[English]

Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

2353. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed the Union Government to take a decision about installing the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the canopy at India Gate; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) In a Civil Writ Petition No. 2725/95 filed by Conservation Society of Delhi and another against Union of India and others, Delhi High Court has passed orders to the effect that the Government is free to decide the location for installing the statue of Mahatma Gandhi but its implementation shall be subject to the orders of that Court. As regards the installation of the statue in the canopy at India Gate, a stay order passed by the Delhi High Court on 26.7.95 in the same case, restraining the Government from altering/removing/demolishing the canopy, is in operation. Since the matter is still sub judice, it would not be proper at this stage to say anything further in the matter.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Over Bridges

2354. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of main railway level crossings without over bridges in the country owing to which traffic jams occur State/Zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to construct over bridges on these level crossings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/Zone-Wise?

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) Number of main Railway level crossings without Over Bridges in the Country owing to which traffic jams occur are given below:—

S.No.	Railways	Number of Level Crossings	State	Number of Level Crossings
1.	Central	113	Assam	6
2.	Eastern	84	Andhra Pradesh	98
3.	East Central	11	Bihar	38
4.	East Coast	15	Delhi	31
5.	Northern	180	Goa	1
6.	North Central	58	Gujarat	73
7.	North Eastern	45	Haryana	35
8.	Northeast Frontier	8	Karnataka	35
9.	North West	17	Kerala	44
10.	Southern	158	Madhya Pradesh	66
11.	South Central	95	Maharashtra	115
12.	South Eastern	63	orissa	21
13.	South Western	33	Punjab	45
14.	Western	141	Rajasthan	48
15.	West Central	10	Tamil Nadu	109
16.			Uttar Pradesh	188
17.			West Bengal	78
Total =		1031		1031