

been declined and the Australian proposal for a structured bilateral defence dialogue between the two countries has been put on indefinite hold by the Government.

#### **Deraiment of Ahmedabad-Howrah Express**

2420. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five bogies of Ahmedabad-Howrah Express fell from Hasdeo bridge in Bilaspur division of South-Eastern Railway on September 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in this accident;

(c) whether the Inquiry Committee looking into this mishap has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) action taken by the Government in the light of the findings of the Inquiry Committee?

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) 88 persons lost their lives and 400 sustained injuries.

(c) and (d) Commissioner of Railway Safety/South Eastern Circle has attributed the accident to discontinuity in rail during its repair by Permanent Way Staff on approach of bridge No. 46.

(e) The enquiry report which was received on 06.5.1998, is under examination.

#### **Production of Zinc**

2421. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total tonnes of zinc produced during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the target fixed therefor;

(b) whether there is a wide gap between domestic demand and production of zinc in the country;

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to meet the growing domestic demand; and

(d) the programmes drawn up in that regard till the terminal year of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) According to the information collected from Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and Binani Industries Limited (BIL), the total production of zinc metal during the 8th Five Year Plan is 7,00,508 MT against a target of 7,95,250 MT.

(b) The primary producers of the zinc metal are unable to meet the total domestic demand.

(c) and (d) At present, the gap between the domestic demand and primary production of the metal is met through recycling and through imports under Open General Licence (OGL). However, HZL by debottlenecking of their existing smelters at Debari and Visakhapatnam proposes to increase the capacity of zinc metal by 10,000 tonnes each. BIL has plans to increase the zinc metal production capacity from existing 30,000 tonnes per annum to 60,000 tonnes per annum during the 9th Five Year Plan. HZL and BIL have also proposal to set up new green-field plants for zinc production during 9th/10th Five Year Plan.

#### **Request of Foreign Airlines**

2422. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South East and East Asian countries have requested permission to introduce new flights to India;

(b) if so, the details of the representations and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the domestic Airlines have objected to the grant of such permission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last one year, requests have been received from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Brunei for additional air traffic rights to/from India. An agreement on an additional air seat capacity of 1000 seats/week and two new points of call for each side was concluded with Indonesia in June, 1997. The request to Malaysia to increase their airline's services to Chennai from six frequencies to seven frequencies has also been agreed

to. The Civil Aviation delegations of India and Singapore also agreed on a package of additional air traffic rights in the last round of bilateral talks held in July, 1997. This package is, however, yet to be approved by the Government. The other pending requests from South East Asian and East Asian countries would require bilateral negotiations at Government level before reaching an agreement.

(c) and (d) The representatives of national carriers are associated in the bilateral negotiations for exchange of traffic rights and the interests of the national carriers are given due regard while finalising the package.

#### **Disposal of Westland Helicopters**

2423. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are disposing of the 19 grounded Westland Helicopters at throw-way prices to scrap dealers in Britain;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration.

*[Translation]*

#### **Laying of New Rail Line Between Barwadhi and Chirimiri**

2424. SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for laying a new rail line between Barwadhi (Bihar) and Chirimiri (Madhya Pradesh) has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

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) A survey for this new line has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

*[English]*

#### **Unauthorised Construction**

2425. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints/representations received in respect of carrying out unauthorised constructions in Delhi and New Delhi particularly in the slum area of Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi in the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of the contents thereof;

(c) whether any demolition orders have been issued by the concerned authorities;

(d) if so, the details of the properties and owners to whom these have been served, and

(e) the action that have so far been taken to erase the unauthorised constructions in Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) (a) to (e) Unauthorised construction in Delhi is a continuing problem and its removal is also a continuous process. As and when unauthorised construction is detected or reported action is taken by the concerned organisations under the relevant laws. DDA has reported that no separate record about the complaints/representations regarding unauthorised constructions has been maintained by it.

So far as unauthorised construction in the slum area of Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi is concerned, Delhi Police has received ten complaints/representations, Slum Deptt. of MCD has received complaints in respect of six properties and DDA has detected unauthorised construction in twelve properties in the area. Details of the properties and the action taken by Delhi. Police, Slum Deptt. of MCD and the DDA are as given in the enclosed Statement.