

Chennai, Bangalore, Trivandrum, Secunderabad, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Ahmedabad.

(b) Guwahati, Churchgate, Santacruz, Vadodara, Indore, Ratlam, Ujjain, Kota, Agra Fort, Ajmer, Abu Road, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, sealdah, New Koilaghat, Fairlie Place.

(c) 1998-99.

(d) Rs. 126.5 Lakhs (approx.)

[English]

#### **Aerial Pictures of INS-Delhi by Australian Aircraft**

2427. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether an Australian Navy surveillance aircraft took aerial pictures and tried to record data related to the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the newly built Indian warship, INS-Delhi while it was on voyage to Langkawi (Malasia) in November-December, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government had lodged a protest against such surveillance; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. On 27.11.1997, an Australian Naval surveillance aircraft reportedly made a close pass at INS Delhi in a position approximately 200 NM SW off Port Blair in the Bay of Bengal. The ship was heading for Langkawi (Malaysia), via Port Blair. The aircraft was reported to have also dropped three sonobuoys ahead of INS Delhi.

(b) and (c) The incident was taken up with the Australian Government and suitable protest lodged against Australia's unfriendly and provocative act. The reaction of the Australian Government is that surveillance at high seas did not constitute any violation of norms and the Australian tactics are not different from those adopted by other armed forces in the region.

#### **Fire in Running Trains**

2428. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire extinguishers are available on all trains and train personnel are trained to fight a fire;

(b) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the measures taken to check incidents of fire in running trains?

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) Does not arise.

(c) Fire Inspectors of Railway Protection Force conduct periodical checks on all passenger carrying trains to ensure the availability of fire extinguishers.

The following preventive measures are taken:—

- (i) Warning Boards are displayed in all the coaches.
- (ii) Carriage of inflammable articles by passenger-carrying trains is banned.
- (iii) RPF staff on platform duty have been directed to check unauthorized carriage of inflammable articles.
- (iv) Parcel Booking Clerks and Luggage Booking Clerks have been instructed to ensure that no inflammable article is booked by passenger-carrying trains.
- (v) An Instant Action Group has been introduced in selected super-fast trains which also prevents entry of unauthorized persons including vendors who carry 'Sikiri'; and
- (vi) During festival seasons like Diwali, special checks are conducted on passenger-carrying trains to ensure that no fire crackers are carried.

#### **Attachment of AC-3 Tier Coaches with Long Distance Trains**

2429. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to attach AC-3 tier coaches in all the long distance trains;

(b) if so, the names of the trains in which AC-3 tier coaches have been provided so far; and

(c) the cities from which these trains are originating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY