

1	2	3	4
W.R.	1994-95	3000	165.62
	1995-96	3507	126.50
	1996-97	3048	136.66
Total	1994-95	27508	1219.57
	1995-96	33146	1318.94
	1996-97	31816	1234.04

The figures for the year 1997-98 are under compilation.

(b) The reasons for missing booked goods are primarily improper packing, marking, labelling, criminal interference enroute, negligence by staff, over-carriage of goods, etc.

The following remedial measures are taken by the Railways to prevent missing of goods :-

- i) Escorting of trains is done as far as possible, for those trains carrying valuable consignments over vulnerable sections.
- ii) Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
- iii) Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of loaded wagons and their seals.
- iv) Maintenance of close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.
- v) Special study of specific streams of traffic to localise the causes and places of thefts and pilferage, and follow up action thereon.
- vi) Proper marking addressing and labelling of packages to prevent them from going astray.
- vii) Selecting commercially fit wagons for loading commodities.
- viii) Introduction of detailed rationalised loading programme on trunk routes.
- ix) Insistence on provision of damage to protect flap doors of wagon load consignments of sugar, grains and pulses and oil seeds etc.
- x) Rivetting and locking of wagons carrying valuable goods, as per extant instructions, so as to prevent wagon breaking.

[English]

Privatisation of Airports

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

(a) whether 11 airports were to be developed as international hubs by the Government under the Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop all these airports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad airports and privatise them in the first round as models for the future planning ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) While the Policy on Airport Infrastructure has recognised that the existing 5 international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chhennai and Thiruvananthapuram can be classified as international hubs in terms of facilities provided, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Guwahati can be added to the list as and when facilities are upgraded to the desired level.

(b) Airport Authority of India has upgraded/modernised the airport at Hyderabad at an estimated cost of Rs.100 crores and Ahmedabad airport is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores. Guwahati airport is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores. There is also a proposal to set up a new airport of international standards at Bangalore through private participation.

(c) Preliminary studies have been made on the desirability of allowing private investment for the development of airports. The feasibility of infusion of private (including foreign) investment in this sector as well as taking greater recourse to additional funding sources like external assistance, external commercial borrowing, public issues etc. is being examined for funding the development of these airports.

Losses suffered by Konkan Railway

*140. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway has been incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce such losses?