

the Government of India and Government of the country concerned. Indian Airlines and Air India have, at present, no plans to provide new air links.

[English]

Construction of New Railway Lines

1339. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surveys conducted for construction of new railway lines from 1996 onwards till date:

(b) whether survey for construction of Mehboob Nagar-Koppal via Raichur a new railway line has also been conducted;

(c) if so, the present position of the project; and

(d) the time by which construction work is likely to be started?

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) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Allotment of Stalls at Railway Stations

1340. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai High Court had given a Stay Order on direct allotment of catering stalls at railway stations;

(b) if so, the grounds on which the stalls are being allotted to multinational soft drink companies, like Pepsi and Coco Cola at Delhi, New Delhi; Nizamuddin and other railway stations;

(c) whether this step amount to provide special facility to the multinational companies; and

(d) if so, whether this facility would also be extended to the Indian catering contractors?

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. However, the stay has been subsequently vacated.

(b) No direct allotment of stalls is being made. automatic dispensing machines for sale of hot and cold beverages of Indian and multinational companies are being

installed at important railway stations as per prescribed procedure and guidelines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Dollar Based Fare

1341. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic airlines have made proposals to the Government to raise the dollar based fares in the context of devaluation of the rupee;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dilapidated Coaches

1342. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to remove the dilapidated coaches attached to some trains running between Mangalore, Shoranore, Calicut and Palakkad; 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 dilapidated coaches are attached to any train running between Mangalore-Shoranur, Calicut and Palakkad sections. Moreover, all coaches used on trains running in this region are well within their economic service life.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses Due to Selling of Semi-precious Stone

1343. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is losing crores of rupees due to official ineptitude and non-cooperation from the mining department of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the neighbouring States were selling the locally mined semi-precious stones (colour stones) at a high premium in the international market;