

the private agency engaged by the Sikkim Government for construction of an airport at Pakyong is received.

[Translation]

**Completion of Survey Work of  
Fatuha-Shekhpora Railway Line**

1269. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the survey work of Fatuha-Chandi-Asthawa-Varvigha-Shekhpora railway line is likely to be completed and the construction work undertaken?

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): Surveys have been taken up for new BG lines from Fatua-Danapur via Dniawan & Punpun and between Daniawan-Shekhpora via Chandi, Bihar Sharif and Barbigha. These surveys are expected to be completed by June, 1999. Further consideration of the projects will be possible once the survey reports become available.

[English]

**Proposal to Privatisise ESI Hospitals**

1270. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the E.S.I. hospitals;

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

(c) whether the Government have constituted any Committee for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government had constituted on 22nd July, 1998 a four-Member Committee to review medical facilities available in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. The Committee has since submitted its report.

**Promotions of Undeserving Officers in I.A.F.**

1271. SHRI A.C. JOS:

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "The Undeserving Fly high in IAF Study" appeared in 'The Time of India' dated February 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard and also to take note of such cases in the other two services where the officers have gone to courts to get justice?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inhouse Committee on Flight Safety was constituted by Indian Air Force to review the aircraft accidents/incidents and recommend measures to enhance flight safety in the Indian Air Force. Air Force authorities have reported that the recommendations regarding training and personnel policies have since been implemented adequately.

(c) The system of selection for promotion in the Services is just and fair and has stood the test of time. However, occasionally some officer who does not get selected, may perceive himself to be wronged. Provisions exist for such officers to represent to the Central Government against their supersession/Annual confidential Reports, by way of Statutory Complaints or the legal process.

[Translation]

**Connecting of Bilaspur by T.V. Channels**

1272. ER. SHANKAR PANNU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Madhya Pradesh which have been connected by T.V. Channels 1 and 2;

(b) the reasons for not connecting all the districts of the State including Bilaspur by these channels; and

(c) the time by which these districts are likely to be connected by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) DD-I and DD-II and all the other channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country via satellite and could be received by using appropriate dish antenna system. All the districts of Madhya Pradesh are, wholly or partially, covered by the terrestrial transmitters of DD-I service functioning either in the same district or in nearby district. DD-II service is available terrestrially by a low power transmitter within its coverage range functioning at Bhopal district of M.P.

(b) and (c) Whereas a Low Power TV transmitter (DD-I) is already functioning at Bilaspur, setting up of TV projects throughout the country, including Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh, is a continuous process which is being carried out by Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan, in a phased manner, depending on availability of resources, and inter-priorities.

[English]

#### **Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer**

1273. DR. SANJAY SINH:  
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has approved the acquisition of Advanced Jet Trainers for the Indian Air Force.

(b) and (c) Commercial negotiations with the shortlisted vendors are in progress. Some additional options are also likely to be considered before an appropriate decision is taken.

#### **Chinese Base near A&N Islands**

1274. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that China is trying to establish and consolidate its bases and stations in certain islands near Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of the security threat of such actions to the security of India; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect the security and integrity of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While China does not have any base of its own near Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Government is aware of the Chinese assistance to Myanmar in the upgradation of the Naval base at Coco Island.

The existence of radar, surveillance equipment and other such sophisticated facilities have security implications for India for which adequate and appropriate measures are being taken.

#### **Introduction of First Class Coaches**

1275. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the train in which 1st Class coaches have been reintroduced during the last one year;

(b) whether any modification has been carried out in these coaches; and

(c) 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) 1st Class accommodation has been reintroduced on the following trains:—

1. 3347/3348 Palamou Express
2. 7497/7498 Venkatadri Express
3. 4845/4846 Shalimar Express
4. 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.