

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for making such experienced/skilled labourers to regular; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Central Government have enacted the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to protect the interests of contract labour engaged through contractors including Casual Labour. It regulates the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and provides for its abolition in certain circumstances. The Act and the rules made thereunder also provides for the regulation of conditions of work, payment of wages and other amenities relating to welfare and health of contract labour.

(c) and (d) The Act does not provide for absorption of such labour on regular basis. In the aftermath of the judgement of the Supreme Court in *Air India Statutory Corporation & Others Vs. United Labour Union & Others*, however, the establishments engaging contract labour are under statutory obligation to absorb contract labourers on regular basis wherever the appropriate Government by way of notification under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 have prohibited employment of contract labour in any job/work/process in that establishment. The criteria to be adopted for absorption of such contract labour on regular basis as per the judgement will be the duration of work, number of employees working on the job etc. In case of retrenchment due to excess staff, the principle of 'last come, first go' will be applied subject to reappointment as and when vacancy arises.

#### Development of Kandla Airstrip

1382. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kandla Airstrip caters to the needs of small aircrafts;

(b) if so, whether there is tremendous scope of tourist traffic to Kandla; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government have taken or contemplating to take to have the feasibility study report for the increase of length of Kandla Airstrip?

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

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India has no plans at present to extend the runway at Kandla airport. Airlines are free to operate to Kandla airport depending on the traffic potential and economic viability of operations.

#### Derailement of Jagannath Express

1383. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12 coaches of 8410 Dn. Puri-Howrah-Sri Jagannath Express were derailed between New Gadmachupur and Jenapur stations under the Cuttack-Bhadrak Section on December 10, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons killed/injured in the said accident;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 10.12.1998 at about 2.15 hrs. 8410 Down Puri-Howrah Jagannath Express derailed between new Gadmachupur-Jenapur stations of Khurda Road Division of South Eastern Railway.

(c) 4 passengers sustained minor injuries.

(d) and (e) This accident has been enquired into by a committee of officers which concluded that the accident occurred due to weld failure of track. Following staff has been held responsible for the accident:

Primary	—	None
Secondary	—	Permanent Way Inspector Jajpur-Keonjhar Road

[Translation]

#### Gauge Conversion of Udaipur-Ajmer Railway Line

1384. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work already completed regarding gauge conversion of Ajmer-Udaipur rail line and the amount spent thereon so far;

(b) whether this work is not picking up speed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it 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) Work on earthwork and minor bridges on first phase between Udaipur and Chittaurgarh has been taken up and about 70,000 cum of earthwork and 4 minor bridges have been completed. An amount of Rs. 1.37 crs. have so far been spent on this work.

(b) The work is being progressed as per priority fixed by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and availability of resources.

(c) Constraint of resources.

(d) No target has yet been fixed.

[English]

#### Survey for Tirupattur-Hosur Rail Line

1385. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey for new railway line between Tirupattur and Hosur via Krishnagiri has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to be started alongwith the estimated cost 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, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Old Planes

1386. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Government planes are very old;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th January, 1999, airlines-wise; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to counter this problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The average age of the fleet with the national airlines is as under:

Air India		Indian Airlines	
No. & Type of Aircraft	Average age	No. & Type of Aircraft	Average age
7 B747-200	22 Years	9 A300	19.6 years
2 B747-300	10.2 years	30 A320	07.5 years
6 B747-400	04.2 years	12 B737	17.5 years
3 A300B4	16.4 years		
8 A310-300	11.6 years		

These aircraft can continue operating as long as they are maintained in airworthy conditions in accordance with procedures prescribed by the manufacturers and the DGCA.

#### Unmanned Air Vehicle

1387. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Aviation Wing propose to acquire unmanned air vehicle;

(b) if so, the source of its acquisition and details of the agreement made, if any, in this regard; and