

(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 JAIWAL:
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

(c) the time by which it is expected to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While some such vehicles have been acquired for the Army, ex-import, as far as Army Aviation Wing is concerned, no such proposal is under consideration, for the present.

Telecast of Regional Films

1388. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the regional films telecast by the Doordarshan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some of the regional languages were given less importance during this period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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) The details are given in the attached statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Regional Language Films telecast on the National Network of Doordarshan during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998.

S.No.	Language	Year		
		1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assamese	3	5	2
2.	Bengali	4	4	1
3.	Gujarati	5	4	1

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Kannada	4	3	1
5.	Kashmiri	—	—	—
6.	Konkani	—	1	—
7.	Malayalam	5	4	—
8.	Manipuri	2	2	1
9.	Marathi	3	4	2
10.	Nepali	—	—	—
11.	Oriya	3	2	1
12.	Punjabi	2	2	1
13.	Sanskrit	—	—	—
14.	Sindhi	—	—	—
15.	Tamil	3	4	1
16.	Telugu	4	4	—
Total		38	39	11

[English]

Rope Way to High Altitude Posts of Siachin

1389. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has prepared a multi-million dollar proposal to link up high altitude posts on the Siachin Glacier rope way;