

(c) the estimated cost likely to be involved thereon; and

(d) the time schedule by which it is to be built?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Finance have approved the proposal to build an indigenous Air Defence Ship (ADS). The proposal is being processed for further appropriate clearance. The estimated cost of the proposed ADS along with spares would be around Rs. 1700 crores. The approximate period of construction would be 8 to 10 years after placing formal order for construction.

Tatkal Reservation in Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express

1418. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Tatkal Seva" in 2423 Rajdhani Express from Guwahati to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also propose to introduce "Tatkal Seva" in other trains from Guwahati; and

(d) 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) and (b) Tatkal reservation scheme on 2423 Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express train will be introduced as and when additional coach is available and attached in this train.

(c) and (d) Tatkal reservation scheme has already been introduced in 3046 Saraighat Express train. The introduction of this scheme on other trains will depend on the demand pattern and operational feasibilities.

Facilities to Jawans in Desert Areas

1419. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being provided to defence personnel in desert area of border;

(b) the nature of problems being faced by them during summer as well as in winter; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to overcome such difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) All requirements in respect of clothing and other equipment, both for summer and winter, are provided to the defence personnel, deployed in desert areas of the border, in line with their authorisation and scales for such climatic conditions. In so far as supplies, quartering and accommodation facilities are concerned, these are in line with such authorisation and scales, as are applicable to the defence personnel, posted anywhere in the country.

Advance provisioning action is taken to ensure that the deployed troops, do not face difficulties on this account.

[Translation]

Students Missing from Armed Forces Medical College, Pune

1420. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students found missing from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune during 1996 and the number out of those students whose parents were informed alongwith the dates on which they were informed; and

(b) the efforts made by the college so far to trace them out and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There was one such case. The parents and the local guardian of the missing cadet were informed on phone on 4.12.1996.

(b) The AFMC authorities have made all out efforts to trace the missing cadet. The efforts made included search in the hostel/college premises and also in Bhopal (where the candidate was studying before joining AFMC), lodging of FIR with the local police, flashing messages all over the state including through Doordarshan, Mumbai, repeated advertisements in the newspapers and the institution of a Court of Inquiry. The college authorities