

Provision of accommodation to Passengers Delayed Flights

1402. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines provided accommodation to the passengers held up due to flight delayed due to fog during the months of December, 1998 and January, 1999;

(b) if so, whether that accommodation was booked in the ITDC hotels/private hotels; and

(c) if so, the total cost paid for the accommodation given in ITDC hotels and private hotels separately?

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

(b) Accommodation was booked in ITDC Hotels, Private Hotels and Centaur Hotels.

(c) The details of cost paid for accommodation during December, 1998 to January, 1999 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

	ITDC Hotels including Centaur Hotels	Private Hotels	Total
Air India	125.43	183.68	309.11
Indian Airlines	253.84	187.00	440.84

[Translation]

Construction of Road Over Bridges in Chennai

1403. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to construct Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges in Chennai;

(b) if so, whether there is a time bound programme for the completion of the above works; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) Road Over Bridge at Km. 0/19-20 on Chennai beach-Royapuram section as a deposit work. Railway's portion completed and approaches are in progress by the State Govt.

(ii) Road Over Bridge at Km 3/9-10 near Chennai Beach-Royapuram section on cost sharing basis. Railway portion's progress is 60%. Progress on approaches by State Govt. is 40%.

(iii) Road Under bridge at Thilaignanga Nagar as deposit work. Progress of work on Railway's portion is 100%, approaches are being progressed by State Govt.

(iv) Subways for pedestrians on either side of Road Under Bridge No. 33 at Perambur as deposit work. Plan and estimate approved. Tender under finalisation.

(v) Road Under Bridge near MIT Gate at Chennai Beach-Villupuram. Sanctioned in the Works Programme of 1998-99. Planning is in progress.

(vi) Road Over Bridge at Saidapet is sanctioned in the Works Programme of 1998-99. Planning is in progress.

(vii) Subway connecting Rajaji Salai to Chennai Port Trust at Anchor gate as a deposit work. General Arrangement Drawing has been revised to provide for three tracks.

(viii) Road Over Bridge at Guindy as a cost sharing work. The work has progressed 70% on Railway's portion and 50% on State Govt.'s.

[English]

Multi-Channels of Doordarshan

1404. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make available multi-channels of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, by when these channels are likely to be introduced?

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) and (b) Besides DD-1 and DD-2, 15 channels of Regional Service programmes and DD-International Channel are at present in operation. All the channels, including DD-1 and DD-2, are available in the entire country via satellite by using appropriate Dish Antenna System.

The Prasar Bharati Board has decided, in principle, to launch an exclusive Sports Channel. As the details in this regard are yet to be worked out, no specific time frame for operationalisation of the Channel can be indicated at present.

Passenger Special Monitoring Cells

1405. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been chalked out by the Government for setting up of Passenger Special Monitoring cells at divisional or regional railway headquarters; 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) and (b) The Special Monitoring Cells comprising officers and staff of the concerned departments of the Railways are functioning at zonal and divisional railway headquarter levels to receive complaints and suggestions on day to day basis and take appropriate action for prompt disposal. On receipt of the complaints/suggestions, action is taken for long-term and short-term solutions according to the nature of the complaints/suggestions and instructions are sent out to the field units for attending to them promptly.

[*Translation*]

TV Transmitter at Phulparas, Bihar

1406. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the T.V. transmitter installed at Phulparas in Madhubani district, Bihar is presently not working; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

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) No, Sir. The transmitter is functioning normally.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Emoluments paid to Typists

1407. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether typists appointed in the Railways are not paid the emoluments as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railway Board has imposed any restrictions on the appointment of the typists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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. The pay scales allotted to Typists in the Railways are in accordance with the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendation that all posts in the Railways other than those specifically discussed by the Commission are to be granted standard replacement scales of pay and placed in the corresponding revised scales.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since July 1992, direct recruitment in the cadre of typists on the Railways has been discontinued and vacancies of typists in the lowest grade are being added to the Clerical cadre in the corresponding grade. Direct recruits in the cadre of clerks are now required to also possess typing proficiency of prescribed level.