

(c) whether any Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been evolved by the Government to retrench the excess staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any Scheme has also been formulated to provide employment to these extra employees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (f) While no category of employees has been identified as excess in Air India and Indian Airlines, the employee to aircraft ratio in both the airlines is higher in comparison with other reputed airlines. The Voluntary Retirement Scheme is yet to be finalised by either airlines. Both the airlines consider, from time to time, various alternatives for more effective utilisation of their work force.

[English]

Incidents of Air Miss

2023. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air miss incidents took place in the Indian skies during 01.01.1996 to 31.10.1998;

(b) the loss of lives and property in each incident; and

(c) the main steps contemplated by the Government to avoid such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) A total of 42 airmiss incidents have been reported in the Indian sky during 01.01.1996 to 31.10.1998 (1996-12, 1997-14, 1998-16).

(b) There were no loss of lives or property in these incidents.

(c) The main steps taken to avoid air-miss incidents are :

(i) Refresher courses to update professional knowledge of Air Traffic Controllers; (ii) Periodical proficiency checks of Air Traffic Controllers; (iii) Monthly random analysis of ATC tape transcripts to ensure that Air Traffic Controllers use standard phraseology and follow the laid down procedure while giving instruction to aircraft; (iv) Appropriate action against Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) involved in ATC incidents; (v) Modernisation of Air Traffic services at Delhi and Mumbai Airports; (vi) Proper maintenance, navigational communication and landing facilities; (vii) Installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aircraft and Mode 'S'

transponder; and (viii) Installation of Mono-pulse Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR) for radar coverage in major high density routes.

Urban Infrastructure Development Projects

2024. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether ADB has agreed to assist Urban Infrastructure Development Project of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details and present status thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance received so far;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from Karnataka seeking ADB assistance for the development of West Cost districts of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Project (KUIDP) is an integrated urban infrastructure and institutional strengthening programme which has been designed to provide and upgrade essential urban infrastructure and services in the four towns of Mysore, Tumkur, Ramanagaram and Channarayana in order to promote decentralisation of economic growth away from the rapidly expanding Bangalore city and to build up the capacity of the urban local Governments and other sector institutions to help ensure the sustainability of the investments.

The project is estimated to cost US \$ 112 million of which US \$ 85 million is financed by the Asian Development Bank and the remaining US \$ 27 million is financed by Karnataka State, the Urban Local Governments and the implementing Agencies. The loan was signed on 10.5.96. In addition, another agreement has been signed between ADB and Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) for a loan of US \$ 20 million for a component on low income housing project.

The primary components of the project include (i) environments (ii) road improvements (iii) poverty alleviation (iv) industrial sites and services and (v) implementation assistance and institutional strengthening.

As on date an expenditure of Rs. 47.985 crores has been made in respect of various components of the project.

(c) An amount of Rs. 14.61 crore has been reimbursed by the Asian Development Bank to the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation which is the executing agency of the project.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Karnataka Coastal Environmental Management and Urban Development Project is envisaged to provide infrastructure facilities to 10 towns along the west coast of Karnataka. The Asian Development Bank has provided US \$ 80,000 as Technical Assistance for the purpose of preparing a project suitable for ADB funding to facilitate sustainable development of ten towns along west coast of Karnataka. The consultants have identified the projects and the draft feasibility report was discussed in a tripartite meeting held between KUIDFC, State Government and ADB.

Performance of Konkan Railway Corporation

2025. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Konkan Railway Corporation has undertaken indepth review of its performance recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof by standard parameters;

(c) the details of short term and long term strategies worked out to improve over all performance to fetch more revenue; and

(d) the details of action plan and aggressive marketing strategies worked out for the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan period?

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) The performance review in terms of budget figures and actuals for the half year ending 30th September, 1998 indicate that :-

- i) Konkan Railway expected to meet its direct operational expenses from its revenues.
- ii) Konkan Railway is unable to meet the financing costs.

(c) and (d) The details of short term and long term strategies worked out to improve the performance and steps up revenues are as under :-

I) Short term measures :

- a) the railway took immediate action to divert passenger trains on the shorter route. Additionally 2 new trains have been started on this route which has improved the revenues of the Konkan Railways.
- b) Meetings have been held with the Chambers of Commerce and specific stream of commodities like Cement, Fertilizer have been addressed even offering incentives to move the goods traffic and attract the same back from Road and Vessels.
- c) Ministry of Railways has also provided cash assistance of Rupees 50 crores through a loan sanctioned in budget of 1998-99.

II) Long term measures :

It is planned to adopt aggressive marketing strategies and for this purpose assistance of Indian Institute of Management/Ahmedabad has been taken for working out the business strategies. Konkan Railway is planning to open business offices in Gujarat as well as in Cochin as a part of this marketing strategy in the next 5 years.

- i) It is also proposed to restructure financial obligations and raise bonds to refinance.
- ii) Attract more goods traffic.
- iii) To strengthen Konkan Railway in offering customer friendly services to wean away traffic from other modes.
- iv) Launch Konkan Star services.
- v) Rationalise inflation for passenger/goods traffic to generate additional income.

Construction of New Building at Mysore Railway Workshop

2026. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the administrative building of Mysore Railway workshop is 40 years old;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct a new building;

(c) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the time by which the new building is likely to be constructed?