

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b). Because of non-availability of spare aircraft capacity in the evening at Delhi and Mumbai, Indian Airlines is not considering to operate evening flights from Delhi to Goa or Delhi to Goa via Mumbai.

Sidding of Aircraft of Jet Airways at Mumbai

5237. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Jet Airways Boeing 737 skidded on the Sahar Airport runway on 25th June, 1998 at Mumbai and another Indore bound Jet Airways Boeing 735 plane also skidded off on the same runway on 29th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been made in each of the incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The incidents are under investigation.

Free Tickets by Air India

5238. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its International Flights Air India has offered fifty free tickets to the Indian Nationals who went to U.S. for medical treatment;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines exists for grant of such free tickets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The scheme announced by Air India provides that such free tickets would be offered on the basis of a recommendation made by an Indian Hospital, or leading doctor/surgeon that the facility for treatment required by the patient is not available in India and also only if the patient cannot afford travel costs.

[Translation]

Purchase of Planes and Helicopters by Private Airlines

5239. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI ANANTH RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the private Airlines to purchase Planes and Helicopters in order to promote them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the permission to purchase said planes and helicopters is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy, choice of the aircraft type and size is left to the operator, Consideration of proposal for permission to import/acquire aircraft is a continuous process. On 25th June 1998, proposals for import of 12 bigger and 13 smaller aircraft and 5 helicopters have been approved.

[English]

Conversion of Narrow Gauge Railway Line in U.P.

5240. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS to be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the narrow gauge railway lines being converted in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the achievement made in that regard so far; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to complete these projects?

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) to (c) There are no narrow gauge lines in Uttar Pradesh. However, the following gauge conversion works are in progress in Uttar Pradesh :-

Name of Project	Progress and Target
1	2
1. Mathura-Achnera	This works was earlier planned under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Scheme. However, owing to high rates and unacceptable conditions, it has been decided to carry out the work

1	2
1. Mathura-Achnera	with railway funds. It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura line and complete in coming years.
2. Khadda-Gorakhpur	This work is progressing well and would be completed alongwith Valmikinagar-Narkatiaganj and Khadda-Valmikinagar in 1998-99. Full funds provided for completing the work.
3. Kashipur-Lalkuan	Work is in progress. 86% earthwork and 52 minor bridges out of 104 have been completed. Agencies for all 13 major bridges have been fixed. With these funds earthwork and bridges will be completed in the entire line. The work will be completed in the 9th Plan, subject to availability of resources.
4. Kanpur-Kasganj-mathura	Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress in the full section. 3.20 lac cum of earthwork has been completed out of total 12.20 lac cum. An outlay of Rs. 35 crs. has been made in 1998-99 for progressing work on this project. The work will be completed in about 5 years subject to availability of resources.
5. Gonda-Bahraich	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
6. Gonda-Gorakhpur	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
7. Indara-Phephana	Earthwork and bridge work has been completed except one major bridge. The section is targetted for completion by December, 1999 subject to availability of resources. P. Way will be arranged in 1999-2000.
8. Agra-Bandikui	The work was earlier planned under Build-Own-Lease-Transfer

1	2
8. Agra-Bandikui	(BOLT) Scheme but could not be awarded due to very high rates and unacceptable conditions offered by various parties. This has delayed the project. The work is now proposed to be undertaken with Railways funding. Funds to the tune of Rs. 10 crs. have been provided for starting earthwork and bridges. The work will be completed in the 9th Plan subject to availability of resources.

Cancellation of Platinum Passes

5241. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has quashed the system of issuing Railway Platinum passes as reported in the 'Times of India' dated May 14, 1998;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 scheme of Platinum Pass was held to be discriminatory by the honourable High Court of Deih.

(c) The scheme has been withdrawn in compliance with the judgement.

Unutilised Land of V.S.P.

5242. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant lying unutilised;

(b) whether there is any proposal to return this unutilised land to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this matter?