

(d) 3483/3484 and 3413/3414 Farakka Express and 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail run via Sahibganj loop to Delhi.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Phasing out of MIG

5396. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ambitious upgradation programme of MIG from the 90's has been abandoned in view of the recent decision taken by the Government for phasing out MIG in future; and

(b) if so, whether New Aircraft are to be inducted in the airforce in place of MIG?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some old variants of MIG are, however, planned to be phased out in next 4-5 years. These are planned to be replaced by state-of-the-art multirole aircraft.

Aircraft Hanger Collapsed at IAF Station, Bangalore

5397. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aircraft Hanger under construction at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bangalore has collapsed;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted to find out the causes of the collapse; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) While construction of steel hangar comprising 15 steel trusses on reinforced concrete columns with steel sheet roofing was in progress at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, the first truss toppled on 18 June 1998, and came down pulling the second truss alongwith it. This accident caused damage to the supporting columns in turn. An order has been passed for fixing responsibility without delay for the structural collapse.

White Paper on Railway Projects

5398. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to issue white paper on the status of various projects being implemented by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the time by which the white paper is likely to be issued?

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 white paper is proposed to be laid in both the Houses during the Current Session of Parliament.

Additional Forces in Tripura

5399. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has requested the Union Government for deployment of additional forces in the State in view of the increasing activities of the extremists; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deployment of forces in the Counter Insurgency Grid which has been set up to combat insurgency in the entire North East region is done in accordance with the assessment of threat and the determined priorities and depends on security situation obtaining in the region as a whole and the availability of the forces. Accordingly, the security forces have been made available to the State of Tripura to assist them to maintain public order, taking into account the overall situation obtaining in the entire North East region and the availability of forces. There is presently no plan to deploy additional forces in Tripura.

Compensation for Displaced persons of Sea Bird Project, Karnataka

5400. SHRI H. G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for rehabilitation and payment of compensation for displaced families of Sea Bird project of Defence in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to take up the work of rehabilitation of these displaced people soon, and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?