

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
No. of Tourists	1747	2212	2282
Earnings (in lakhs of rupees)	148.73	199.17	246.16

(e) No, Sir.

(f) It is not feasible to fit in a halt at Ajmer in the weekly itinerary of the train.

[*English*]

Privatisation of container depots and freight stations

1919. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise container depots and container freight stations, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether there is any difficulty in execution of the process of privatisation in regard to economic implications of the decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to meet the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). With a view to expecting the development of containerisation and to facilitate growth of multimodal transport services, on cost effective basis, participation of private sector in Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) has been examined from time to time. While some of

the export cargo aggregation centre and CFSs are being operated by the private Sectors, all existing ICDs are operated and owned by Government Agencies. However, certain specific activities such as handling and transportation of cargo are being contracted to private sector agencies on commercial basis.

[*Translation*]

Export of Coal from Bihar

1920. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal and other by-products of coal exporters during the last two years from Bihar;

(b) whether any time-bound programme to increase the export of coal from Bihar has been chalked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SING KALVI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

World Bank Assistance for Indian Railways

1921. SHRI R. GUINDU RAO:

SHRI GOPI NATH
GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the railway system during the next few years with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance likely to be provided by the World Bank for the same;

(c) the terms and condition of the agreement entered into with the World Bank in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which the railway lines/projects would be improved with this assistance?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (d). There is no proposal to seek World Bank assistance for the expansion of the railway system during the next few years.

However, a mission recently identified a project for upgradation of rolling stock.

[*Translation*]

Small Aircraft for Operation in Hilly Areas

1922. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are operational difficulties in providing big aircraft to serve the hilly area due to shorter run-ways; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to go in for smaller aircrafts suitable for shorter run-ways with a view to promoting tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal currently under consideration for acquisition of such new aircraft in view of paucity of resources and the viability of such operations.

[*English*]

Setting up of Thirukaripur Power Plant in Kerala

1923. SHRIRAMESHCHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Thermal power station in Thirukaripur in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the work on the project is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIBABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b). The Feasibility Report for installation of a 2 x 210 MW Thermal Power Station in State-I at Thirukaripur in Kerala was received in the Central Electricity Authority from Kerala State Electricity Board in September, '89. The State Authorities have been asked to obtain clearance from the Southern Naval Command before the scheme could be considered for techno-economic clearance. A thermal Power Station with an ultimate capacity of 3000 MW has been proposed by the Kerala Government at Thirukaripur in the Central Sector. A Team appointed for selection of the site has not suggested location of a thermal power plant in Malabar, Kerala to yield benefits in the 8th Plan Period either in the State or in the Central Sector.