

the North-Eastern Railway, more short-distance trains would be run May I know many more trains have been attached to this line to relieve congestion?

Shri Shah Nawas Khan: Eight new trains have been introduced, 10 have been extended and 69 trains have been strengthened.

Air-Service via Gorakhpur

*690. { **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri Sinhasan Singh:
Shri Mahadeo Prasad:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the air service via Gorakhpur has been stopped, and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The traffic to and from Gorakhpur has been such that it did not cover even operation costs. The Indian Airlines Corporation did not therefore consider that the continuance of the service was justified.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for connecting Gorakhpur by any other air route?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Not by any other route, but we are examining if it is possible to provide some alternative connecting without providing scheduled services.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: This happened because there used to be only two days service in a week and the travellers who go by plane are mostly business people and nobody will wait for two days so that the plane may take them. So, would not Government try opening a daily service and see whether it runs at a loss or profit?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The average number of passengers was, Delhi to Gorakhpur 105, Lucknow to Gorakhpur 03, Banaras to Gorakhpur, 032, Gorakhpur to Patna 01 and Gorakhpur to Calcutta, 16, and the freight carried never exceeded 13 lbs. Mail was also insignificant. In view of this and the fact that there was great loss on operations, it would not be possible to revive it as a scheduled service. As I stated earlier, I am examining if some other method can be found.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: Is it not a fact that this scarcity of passengers was due to the fact that the route was not well connected with other services?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The route was Delhi, Lucknow, Banaras, Gorakhpur, Patna and Calcutta, and there were connections at the two terminals. As to whether there was any other airline starting from Delhi or Calcutta in connection with this service I would like to ask for notice. But, as far as I can recollect, I think, there were services in Calcutta and Delhi which offered facilities to passengers to travel wherever they wanted, either by evening planes or by night planes.

Fresh Water Supply Scheme in Kerala

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*691. { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**
Shri Kodyan:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the amount of Central aid so far given to the Kerala State for making fresh water available in the coastal tracts of the State?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): Rs. 10,975 lakhs have so far been paid, as subsidy to the Government of Kerala for the implementation of their rural water supply schemes which include the scheme "Tubewells in Coastal areas".

Shri V. P. Nayar: I find from the Second Plan that the overall allotment is to the tune of Rs. 28 crores.