

(a) whether the level of dialogue between India and China to resolve the issues that have been pending for a long time is proposed to be raised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief of Army Staff from China also visited India recently;

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held with him; and

(e) the outstanding issues that have not yet been settled between both the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal for the present.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) During the visit, two sides reiterated their commitment to build a constructive and cooperative relationship.

(e) Various issues of mutual interest are being discussed in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and the India-China Expert Group. The last meeting of the JWG (10th) was held in New Delhi in August 1997.

#### Committee for Route Rationalisation

190. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India Board has called for route rationalisation with a view to ease the financial crunch that Air India is facing;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been set up to formulate a viable longterm strategy; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India has been set up to give its recommendations on the route rationalization between Air India and Indian Airlines. Government have also constituted a committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay K. Kelkar, Chairman, Tariff Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the losses incurred by the Air India and to suggest a strategy for turning around the company.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Delhi Rent Control Act

191. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995 stands at present;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from the landlords and also the trader tenants in regard to the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Delhi Rent Bill, 1994 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 29.5.95 and by the Lok Sabha on 3.6.95. It was assented to by the President on 23.8.95 and it become Delhi Rent Act, 95. The Delhi Rent Act, 95 has not been brought into force so far.

(b) and (c) The Government has received a large number of representations both from the landlords and tenants (including trader tenants). While the landlords have been requesting for bringing the said Act into force immediately, the tenants have been demanding changes in some of the provisions of the Act before it is brought into force. These changes pertain to the clauses relating to deemed rent, compulsory registration of tenancies, inheritability of tenancies of non-residential premises, enhancement of rent and eviction of tenants.

(d) The Government decided after examining the matter in detail to amend the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 before it is brought into force. Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28.7.97 which at present is pending in the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

#### Export of Granite

192. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports granite and fine quality of granite is available in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether efforts made by Government to increase the export of granite have not brought good results;

(c) whether the recommendations made in the Conference of State Minister's held last year to increase export of the processed granite have been implemented; and

(d) if so, the outcomes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The efforts made by the Government to increase the Export of Granite has borne good results as would be evident from the steady growth of exports during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Some of the recommendations have already been implemented. In that direction, Granite Development Council has been reconstituted for overseeing the overall development of granite industry including its export. In addi-

tion to this, an Expert Committee has also been constituted to examine the taxation regime on granite and to suggest measures for development and export of granite.

[English]

**Conversion of Darbhanga to  
Jaynagar Railway Line**

193. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the demand for conversion of Dharbhanga-Jaynagar metre gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be converted ?

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. The work has already been included in the budget 1997-98.

(b) Work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained for which action has been initiated.

(c) Target can be decided only after the clearances are obtained and the project is taken up.

[Translation]

**Stoppage of Express Trains at  
Khurja City Station**

194. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the Members of Parliament for providing stoppage of all Express trains at Khurja City station which are passing through Khurja Junction, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

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) All trains passing through Khurja City station are already stopping there.

[English]

**Modernisation of Steel Plants**

195. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Steel Plants being modernised ;

(b) the estimated cost involved plant-wise;

(c) whether there has been cost over runs in the implementation of modernisation scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has undertaken the modernisation of the following three steel plant;

1. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)

2. Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)

3. Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)

(b) Approved costs of modernisation programmes are as given below :

DSP : Rs. 2,668 crores (Based : 3rd Qtr.' 88)

RSP : Rs. 3,954 crores (Base : 1st Qtr.' 92)

BSL : Rs. 1,783 crores (Base : 1st Qtr.' 94)

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) The details of cost overrun are as follows :

DSP : Approved cost : Rs. 2,668 crores (Base : 3rd Qtr.' 88)

Anticipated cost : Rs. 4,867 crores (Base : 3rd Qtr.' 97)

Cost overrun : Rs. 2,199 crores

77% of the cost overrun is due to monetary and fiscal reasons and remaining 23% is due to physical reasons.

RSP : Approved cost : Rs. 3,954 crores (Base 1st Qtr.' 92)

Anticipated cost : Rs. 5,112 crores (Base : 4th Qtr.' 97)

Cost overrun : Rs. 1,158 crores

95% of the cost overrun is due to monetary and fiscal reasons and remaining 5 % is due to physical reasons.

BSL : Approved cost : Rs. 1,783 crores (Base : 1st Qtr.' 94)

Anticipated cost : Rs. 2,235 crores (Base : 3rd Qtr.' 97)

Cost overrun : Rs. 442 crores

83% of the cost overrun is due to monetary and fiscal reasons and remaining 17% is due to physical reasons.