

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to provide atleast one flight daily to New Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) At present Indian Airlines operates a twice weekly A-320 services on Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar-Delhi route and Alliance Air operates a once weekly B-737 service connecting Chandigarh to Leh.

Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however for the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

#### **Encroachment of Railway Property**

2347. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large portion of the Northeast Frontier Railway property at Pandu, Maligaon and New Guwahati railway stations has been encroached upon and grabbed by private parties;

(b) if so, whether some complaints against this encroachment have been received by the railway administration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some railway officers are hand in glove with these encroachers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect this land and evict the encroachers?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) Complaints from both sides *i.e.* to remove encroachments as well as to stop eviction drive have been received. Railway has not stopped its efforts to

remove the encroachments and 551 number of encroachments have been removed during the year 1998-99.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Preventive measures to protect Railway land include construction of Boundary wall/fencing, extensive plantation and a constant vigil against encroachments. Removal of encroachments is undertaken under the Provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 with the help of local Police Force.

#### **Fighting Capability**

2348. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding need of enhancing combat capability of the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) whether the Indian Army is facing a resource crunch; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps to do away with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In order to enhance the combat capability and to prepare for future battlefield scenario, the Army is continuously being modernised by updating resources both human and material to keep pace with the changing threat perceptions, technologies and geo-political environment. A concerted exercise is undertaken on regular basis and a prioritised procurement plan drawn. Meticulous adherence to the laid down schedules is exercised to ensure a high level of operational preparedness, within the available resources.

#### **Poor Doordarshan Transmission in Bihar**

2349. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor Doordarshan transmission has been reported in parts of Central Bihar and North Bihar in particular the districts of Aurangabad and Chapra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a high powered transmission centre to improve the transmission in the aforementioned places; and

(d) if not, the reasons and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Whereas a low power transmitter is functioning at Aurangabad, there is no approved scheme, at present, to set up any high power transmitter in Chapra and Aurangabad districts as most parts of these districts are getting coverage from HPTs functioning at Patna, Daltonganj and Muzaffarpur.

#### **Courses Conducted in ITIs**

2350. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Minimum Vocational Programme Courses being conducted by certain institutes are far better than the courses being conducted in Industrial Training Institutes as their syllabi provide more scope of learning a vocation;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that unlike I.T.Is these institutes don't have any provisions for apprenticeship for students and direct certification for employment;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to remove this discrepancy; and

(d) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Vocational Training is being imparted by a number of Agencies under different Ministries/Departments of Government of India and also State Governments. The Entry Qualification, Type and Duration of Training are different from one another and they target different requirements of Labour Market. As such comparisons are not possible.

As far as courses conducted by the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are concerned, the curricula of these

courses are designed and periodically updated in consultation with the Industry as per the requirements of the Industry.

(b) Apprentices Act, 1961 is applicable in respect of 4 categories, viz. Trade Apprentices, Technician (Vocational) Apprentices, Graduate and Technician Apprentices. Persons possessing minimum qualifications varying from class 8th pass to B.Sc. can undergo Apprenticeship Training for a period varying from 6 months to 4 years in the category of Trade Apprentices covering 135 trades. Rebate in the period of Apprenticeship Training is allowed to pass-outs from ITIs in certain relevant trades.

Persons passing out from 10+2 Vocational Education Schools can undergo Apprenticeship Training in the relevant subject field for a period of one year in the category of Technician (Vocational) Apprentices covering 94 subject fields. Similarly, persons passing out from Colleges of Engineering/Technology or Polytechnics can undergo Apprenticeship Training in the relevant subject field for a period of one year in the category of Graduate or Technician Apprentices respectively covering 97 subject fields.

Thus persons passing out from any Institute can undergo Apprenticeship Training in one of the four categories provided they fulfil the eligibility conditions prescribed under the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

*[Translation]*

#### **Production of Programmes by Telecast Centre, Bundi**

2351. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendras have been divided into programme production and telecast unit and a unit meant for telecast only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether programmes are not being produced by the Doordarshan Telecast Centre, Bundi (Rajasthan);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and