

[Translation]

Sale of Boeing 747-200 Aircraft

386. SHRI ANNA SAHIB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has decided to sell its two very old Boeing 747-200 aircraft;

(b) whether tenders have been invited for their sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of aircrafts of Air India which have completed their life period; and

(e) the time by which new aircrafts are proposed to be purchased in their place?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Air India invited bids through advertisements, for sale of six B747-200 aircraft. No final decision in the matter has been taken by the Government.

(d) and (e). No life span is specified. The aircraft may continue to operate as long as it is airworthy as per regulations of the Director General of Civil Aviation. Air India plans to continue renewal and expansion of its aircraft fleet during the Ninth Plan Period.

Communication System in Bihar

*387. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the development of communication system in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether the above system is still poor in the State in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the communication system in Bihar during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The Plan expenditure on development

of Telecommunication system in Bihar during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Plan Expenditure (in crores of Rs.)
1993-94	180.89
1994-95	222.61
1995-96	189.01

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During 1996-97 it is proposed to provide 47,000 Direct exchange lines against waiting list of 42,481 as on 31.3.96, add 67,800 lines of Electronic switching capacity, provide 6,500 village public telephones and 10,000 lines of Trunk Automatic Exchange capacity.

[English]

Multinationals/Pvt. Sectors to Explore and Mine Gold and other Metals

* 388. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI GEORGE FERNADES:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for allowing Indian private companies and multinationals to explore and mine gold and other precious metals in the country and particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether a request from the Government of Karnataka has been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons for allowing multinationals to explore gold and precious metals in Karnataka;

(d) the details of the proposals received from various companies;

(e) whether Karnataka have stipulated any condition on companies to explore and mine gold;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(h) the arrangements ensured for rehabilitation of the people living there who are likely to be evicted?