

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the accumulated loss suffered by the airlines due to strike by pilots;
- (d) the number of flights cancelled as a result thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to avoid such losses and strikes by pilots in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 23.1.1997, a total of 142 pilots represented by ICPA resorted to concerted action by reporting sick or refusing to operate flights on various grounds till 27.1.97. The main issues for the action are as under :-

- (1) Guaranteed payment of fixed hours;
- (2) Cash allowance during international flights;
- (3) Free meals to two pilots during their stay in hotels;
- (4) Comparable terms of payment with the Pilots of Alliance Air

(c) and (d) 83 flights were cancelled as a result of concerted action by the pilots. Indian Airlines suffered an estimated loss of approximately Rs. 3 crores due to this action.

(e) Following steps have been taken to avoid such losses and strikes by pilots in future :-

- (i) The Management of IA refused to entertain any demands that would amount to reopening of the settlement signed with the Indian Commercial Pilots Association in January, 1996, valid till December 1998.
- (ii) Disciplinary proceedings were initiated against all pilots who had refused to undertake flights.
- (iii) The names of Pilots who have reported sick on more than one occasion have been referred to the Airforce Central Medical Establishment through DGCA to keep it on record for consideration during periodical medical examination in future.
- (iv) The Management insisted on restoration of normalcy before commencement of any discussions.

### MI-17 Helicopters

\*88. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Russian built MI-17 helicopters are in use in India for transportation of goods or passengers;
- (b) if so, the number thereof;
- (c) whether Government have seen reports that Nepal has grounded these helicopters for safety reasons; and
- (d) if so, the safety precautions taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) MI-17 helicopters are not being used for civil air transport operations in India.

(c) It is gathered that His Majesty's Government of Nepal had temporarily suspended passenger operations by MI-17 helicopters in December, 1996, which have since resumed and the matter is being examined by their experts.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b)

### Telephone Connections

\*89. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the position of waiting list during the above period, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of new telephone connections given during 1996 and 1997, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The details of telephone connections provided and the position of waiting list three years, State-wise are as per Statement-I.

(c) The Number of new telephone connection given during 1996 and 1997, so far, State-wise is as per Statement-II.

### Statement-I

*Details of Telephone Conections Provided and Posion of Waiting List During Last 3 Years*

S. No.	Name of the State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Telephone Provided	Waiting list as on 31.3.94	Telephone Provided	Waiting list as on 31.3.95	Telephone Provided	Waiting list as on 31.3.96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77,837	1,55,426	1,38,278	1,24,452	1,50,021	1,35,054
2.	Assam	13,430	9,820	13,103	15,028	20,295	19,648