

putes between Air India and its employees pertaining mainly to service conditions are pending in conciliation before the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Mumbai and Delhi. However, wherever feasible, the management of Air India takes action to resolve the disputes.

Chasnala Burnpur Ropeway

3254. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to states :

(a) the amount spent in working Chasnala Burnpur Ropeway with justification thereof ;

(b) whether the ropeway has been stripped and there is a plan to dismantle it; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The operation of Chasnala Burnpur Ropeway was stopped as it had become highly unsafe and economically unviable. For renovation of the plant and machinery, an expenditure of Rs. 34 crores was estimated. Even after the aforesaid investment, the transportation cost was estimated to be higher than the transportation cost by Railways.

IISCO, being a sick company, is facing severe crisis of funds. Therefore, the viable option was to switch over to Railways for Transportation of coal. Part of assets of Ropeway are being utilised in IISCO and the balance will be disposed of by auction.

Late Running of Shatabadi Express

3255. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Shatabadi Express, running between Delhi and Chandigarh has started reaching late at its destinations, during last few months;

(b) if so, how many days since January, 1998 Shatabadi Express reached late in Chandigarh and Delhi and by how much time;

(c) the reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps are being taken to ensure that it reaches its destinations in time ?

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) No, Sir. The punctuality performance of 2011/2012 New

Delhi-Chandigarh Shatabadi Express during the last few months except January 1988 has been by and large satisfactory.

(b) During January 1998, the train ran 31 days and lost its punctuality on 11 days.

(c) The reasons for late running of this train were due to Rail fracture, alarm chain pulling, bad weather, agitations etc.

(d) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' levels are also being launched.

Development of Domestic Air Transport Sector

3256. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private sector Airlines both foreign as well as Indian propose to develop the domestic air transport sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy guidelines, while private sector airlines registered in India are permitted to participate in the development of domestic air transport sector, foreign airlines are, however, not permitted to participate, directly or indirectly, in the equity holding of domestic air transport sector.

[Translation]

Air Service from Bhopal

3257. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no air service from Bhopal to Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Bhuvaneshwar and Lucknow; and

(b) if so, steps being taken to link the above places with Bhopal ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to capacity constraints, Indian Airlines has, at present, no plan to operate services from Bhopal to Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Bhuvaneshwar and Lucknow. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add new stations including these stations in their network, subject to viability and compliance of route dispersal guidelines.