

1	2	3	4
W.R.	1994-95	3000	165.62
	1995-96	3507	126.50
	1996-97	3048	136.66
Total	1994-95	27508	1219.57
	1995-96	33146	1318.94
	1996-97	31816	1234.04

The figures for the year 1997-98 are under compilation.

(b) The reasons for missing booked goods are primarily improper packing, marking, labelling, criminal interference enroute, negligence by staff, over-carriage of goods, etc.

The following remedial measures are taken by the Railways to prevent missing of goods :-

- i) Escorting of trains is done as far as possible, for those trains carrying valuable consignments over vulnerable sections.
- ii) Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other affected areas/sections.
- iii) Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of loaded wagons and their seals.
- iv) Maintenance of close coordination between RPF, GRP and local police at various levels to apprehend criminals and receivers of stolen property.
- v) Special study of specific streams of traffic to localise the causes and places of thefts and pilferage, and follow up action thereon.
- vi) Proper marking addressing and labelling of packages to prevent them from going astray.
- vii) Selecting commercially fit wagons for loading commodities.
- viii) Introduction of detailed rationalised loading programme on trunk routes.
- ix) Insistence on provision of damage to protect flap doors of wagon load consignments of sugar, grains and pulses and oil seeds etc.
- x) Rivetting and locking of wagons carrying valuable goods, as per extant instructions, so as to prevent wagon breaking.

[English]

Privatisation of Airports

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

(a) whether 11 airports were to be developed as international hubs by the Government under the Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop all these airports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to develop Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad airports and privatise them in the first round as models for the future planning ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) While the Policy on Airport Infrastructure has recognised that the existing 5 international airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chhennai and Thiruvananthapuram can be classified as international hubs in terms of facilities provided, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Guwahati can be added to the list as and when facilities are upgraded to the desired level.

(b) Airport Authority of India has upgraded/modernised the airport at Hyderabad at an estimated cost of Rs.100 crores and Ahmedabad airport is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores. Guwahati airport is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores. There is also a proposal to set up a new airport of international standards at Bangalore through private participation.

(c) Preliminary studies have been made on the desirability of allowing private investment for the development of airports. The feasibility of infusion of private (including foreign) investment in this sector as well as taking greater recourse to additional funding sources like external assistance, external commercial borrowing, public issues etc. is being examined for funding the development of these airports.

Losses suffered by Konkan Railway

*140. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway has been incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reduce such losses?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Konkan Railway has been opened to through traffic on 26th January, 1998 and it is hardly four months that the Railway is in operation. Already 6 Express and Passenger trains are running. However, to develop traffic to its capacity, some gestation period is involved. It is but natural in the initial first and second year of operation, till the full traffic is developed, that losses will occur. This is accounted for in the cash flows. However, the losses cannot be termed as huge and are of a magnitude which can be controlled.

(b) The main reason for the present loss is the non-materialisation of traffic to the expected levels, and the consequent short fall in earnings. However, since ten months of the current financial year are still there, the results for the full year will depend on the extent to which traffic builds up during the remaining period. It has been estimated that if earnings for the year come up to Rs. 380 crores, it would be possible to break even on ordinary working expenses and interest payments on borrowed funds.

(c) various steps are proposed to be taken to reduce the losses. As soon as the line was opened, action was taken to divert Express passenger trains as follows:-

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 26.1.98 | Mumbai-Madgaon Express(extended) |
| 21.3.98 | Netravati Express |
| 1.4.98 | Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express |
| 1.6.98 | Kurla-Mangalore Express (New train) |

Further, shortly the following trains will be diverted:-

1. 2617/2618 - Nizamuddin- Mangalore Mangla Express
2. Gujarat Group of trains bound for Kerala:
 - i. 6333/6334 Trivandrum-Rajkot Express (weekly)
 - ii. 6337/6338 Cochin-Rajkot Express(weekly)
 - iii. 6335/6336 Nagarcoil-Gandhidham Express (weekly)

Expeditious action is being taken to effect this diversion as each train diverted adds to the revenue of Konkan Railway to the extent of Rs 6 to Rs. 7 lakhs per day.

Further, a strategy is being worked out to improve the freight traffic by identifying streams of cement, fertilizer, iron-ore and steel products to move on Konkan Railway.

Religious and Tourist Places Connected by Air Service

*141. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of religious and tourist places connected by air service in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to connect other religious and tourist places by air services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air have connected the following new pilgrimage centres and tourist places during the last 3 years:-

Name of the station	State/Union Territory
1. Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh
2. Puttaparthi	Andhra Pradesh
3. Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
4. Agatti	U.T. of Lakshadweep

(b) and (c) Many of the stations, already airlinked, are gateways and destinations for important places of tourist and religious interests. Airlines Operators are , being encouraged to add new stations in their network subject to viability.

Anomalies in Salary Structure of Defence Personnel

1267. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existing anomalies in the salary structure of the defence personnel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to overcome the same ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government appointed the Ajit Kumar Committee to examine the anomalies arising from the implementation of revised pay scales and allowances of service personnel consequent to the V Pay Commission award. The Committee has submitted its Report. The recommendations of the Committee are presently under Government's consideration.

[Translation]

Old Age Pension Scheme

1268. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Old Age Pension Scheme has been implemented in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;