

it is planned to start indigenous production of these locomotives during 1998-99.

[Translation]

**Flights on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Indore-  
Calcutta Sector**

5273. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Flight No. 134/133 of Indian Airlines which was in operation between Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Indore and Calcutta has been discontinued:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date by which it is likely to be re-operated?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This flight was withdrawn in 1992 because of shortage of operating crew.

(c) The traffic on these sectors is not adequate for operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft and the related operating crew also do not permit operation of service on this route by Indian Airlines. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations such as Indore in their network, subject to viability.

[English]

**Problems of Soldiers at Difficult  
Border Areas**

5274. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by our jawans in difficult border areas like Siachen Glacier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of jawans who lost their life or suffered from serious diseases due to severe cold in those areas during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to minimise their problems and also to compensate them in some other way?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In Siachen area which is avalanche-prone, blizzard swept and bitterly cold, our troops are deployed

on Saltoro Ridge at an average height of 19000 feet in sub-zero temperatures ranging from -5° to -50° Celsius. Living in such areas makes them prone to frost bite, snow blindness and various high altitude related sicknesses. Besides the difficult terrain and weather conditions, our troops also face almost daily shelling/firing by the enemy, which includes artillery and rocket fire.

(c) During 1995 to 1997, 31 Officers/Jawans were killed and 104 were wounded due to severe cold conditions in Siachen Glacier.

(d) In order to mitigate the hardships of the soldiers posted in Siachen Glacier and to boost their morale; various measures have been adopted which include speedy rotation of troops, provision of special extreme cold clothing items, appropriate shelters, modern communication system, and high calorie special diet. A special allowance called Siachen Allowance has also been sanctioned as follows:-

(i)	JCOs/ORs	Rs.4667/pm
(ii)	Officers	Rs.7000/-pm

**Civic Amenities in Assam**

5275. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam regarding financial assistance for civil amenities schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) to (c) There are two Centrally sponsored schemes: Low Cost Sanitation Scheme (LCS) and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) being implemented by the Ministry for providing civic amenities in the urban areas of the Country.

Under the LCS, for construction of poor flush toilets where none exists and conversion of dry latrines into poor flush toilets, 27 schemes at a project cost of Rs.3908.27 lakhs involving subsidy of Rs.1284.59 lakhs have been sanctioned. There are no pending schemes for Assam for Low Cost Sanitation.

Under the AUWSP, applicable for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, 9 schemes for 9 towns have been received out of which 6 schemes for 6 towns have been approved at the