

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith order of investment likely to be made in public and private sector of steel industry during the current year; and

(d) the present status of ongoing Research and Development projects in public/private sector and the projects under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) The investments made in Research and Development in public and private steel sector during the last three years is gives below :

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Public Sector	46.29	48.03	49.55
Private Sector	14.29	18.71	13.91
Total	60.58	66.74	63.46

The results of the research and development efforts in the public and private sectors during the last three years are :

- improvement of performance indices of the steel plants.
- process improvements, project development and problem analysis.
- cost reduction, energy conservation, quality improvement and waste utilisation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to utilise part of the interest proceeds accruing in the Steel Development Fund (SDF) to supplement Research and Development activities in Iron and Steel sector, Government will utilise this fund to encourage more investment in Research & Development by providing part of the funds needed for research projects to be undertaken by public & private sector.

For the year 1998-99 Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) will be investing an amount of Rs. 54.9 crores in Research and Development and pursuing 77 projects aimed at improving quality and reducing cost of steel production. The private sector is also expected to make investments in research and development activities.

(d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is pursuing 130 projects in different plants and units and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL). The private sector is also running many research and development projects in the current year.

#### Own Your Wagon and "BOLT" Schemes

\*527. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Own Your Wagon" and "BOLT" schemes have had very poor response in attracting the private investment;

(b) if so, the details of achievements of the schemes since their inception and reasons for poor performance; and

(c) the reaction of the Government about further implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The response to 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme has been, by and large, encouraging. However, the response to 'BOLT' Scheme has not been encouraging for fixed infrastructure projects.

(b) and (c) Since inception of 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme in August, 1992, orders for 15638 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been received and 13060 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been procured till June 1998. Under the 'BOLT' (Build, Own, Lease, Transfer) Scheme, one gauge conversion project (Mudkhed-Adilabad) and two rolling stock projects (for 3000 wagons in terms of four wheelers and 53 AC/DC electric locomotives) have been awarded. Out of the rolling stock awarded under 'BOLT' Schemes, 2138 wagons (in terms of four-wheelers) and 50 AC/DC Electric locomotives have been delivered. The poor performance of 'BOLT' Scheme for infrastructure projects is attributable to high cost quoted by the bidders and inadequate response to the Scheme. However, based on the experience gained, efforts are being made to make the schemes more attractive.

#### Maintenance of Railway Tracks

\*528. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount allocated for maintenance of railway tracks during each of the last three years, Zone-wise;

(b) the details of railway tracks renewed and expenditure incurred thereon, during the above period, zone-wise;

(c) whether the South-Eastern Railway has received lowest amount of budget for maintenance of railway tracks in comparison to other zones; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) The details of amount allocated for maintenance of railway track during the last three years, zone-wise is as given below:

(Rs. in Crores)			
Railway	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (R.E.)
1	2	3	4
Central	136.62	149.24	196.92
Eastern	129.25	144.38	185.61
Northern	168.11	199.09	268.13
North Eastern	60.13	67.44	88.05
Northeast Frontier	54.44	60.41	78.55

1	2	3	4
Southern	93.71	96.82	130.01
South Central	108.43	124.00	159.78
South Eastern	172.55	199.37	256.47
Western	126.75	142.27	190.02
Total	1049.99	1183.02	1553.54

(b) The details of railway track renewed and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, zone-wise are as given below:

Railway	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores) (Gross)			Track renewed (in Kms.)		
	1995-96 (Actuals)	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (R.E.)	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central	254.25	276.49	313.50	403	444	506
Eastern	164.2	202.68	210.00	316	337	351
Northern	226.94	232.7	235.00	459	429	467
North Eastern	53.95	65.22	76.00	173	162	185
Northeast Frontier	42.02	57.65	53.00	92	93	83
Southern	105.57	99.83	121.00	221	214	221
South Central	178.78	122.2	107.00	328	213	170
South Eastern	349.77	361.69	405.00	586	593	615
Western	170.59	178.06	204.50	315	310	353
Total	1546.07	1596.52	1725.00	2893	2795	2951

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Non-Profitable Airports

\*529. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN:  
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Airports which are non-profitable;

(b) whether the Government propose to entrust the non-profitable Airports with the State Governments and Private Companies;

(c) if so, whether any decision on the above proposal has been taken;

(d) if so, whether private Companies have been entrusted with operating any Airports in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Out of 120 airports controlled by AAI (5 international airports, 87 domestic airports and 28 civil enclaves), 99 airport are unprofitable.

(b) and (c) The policy on Airport Infrastructure recognises the need for change in the management of airports in the country. AAI has identified 32 unprofitable airports which could be handed over to the State Governments for upkeep and maintenance. Kolhapur and Sholapur airports have already been transferred to the State Government of Maharashtra on mutually agreed terms.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.