

approach road from the National Highway to the Terminal Building. The land has been identified and the State Govt. has been requested to acquire this land. There is also a proposal to extend the apron to accommodate 2 AB-320 and 2 B-737 aircraft simultaneously.

(d) Tourist charter flights can be operated to any airport subject to availability of customs and immigration facilities.

#### Expansion of air services in North-Eastern region

957. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps contemplated by Government to modernise and expand air travel in North-East region;

(b) whether any special steps had been taken during the past five years in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and impact of each of these steps in the sphere of air service in the region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) With a view to provide better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different region in the country, the Government has issued the route dispersal guidelines. According to these guidelines all scheduled operators are required to deploy a minimum of 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk route (category-I routes), in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (category-II routes); 1% of the capacity deployed on category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within Category-II stations.

Upgradation and modernisation of infrastructure facilities at the airports located in the North Eastern Region have been taken up by the Government in a

phased manner by funding on cost sharing basis between North Eastern Council (NEC) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the ratio of 60:40. Budgetary support is also provided to AAI to meet its 40% share. The following scheme/projects have been under taken/completed:—

- (i) Night Landing facilities, modern State of the art RADAR have been provided and Passenger Terminal Building Complex is also being upgraded at Guwahati. Night operation have been approved at Guwahati and Agartala Airports;
- (ii) Modern Navigational Aids, ground lighting facilities have also been provided during the past 5 years at Imphal, Dimapur, Agartala, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar making them suitable for jet operations in all weather conditions;
- (iii) Lilabari Airport is being upgraded for jet operations and a new airport at Lengpui (Mizoram) has been constructed for B-737 operations;
- (iv) A proposal to provide a few concessions/incentives for operations with small aircraft (upto 55 seater) is also contemplated. This will facilitate improved airlinks in the North East Region.

#### नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में रिक्त पद

958. श्री मुनव्वर हसन: क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन विभिन्न स्तरों में ग्रुप "ए", "बी", "सी" व "डी" कर्मियों के रिक्त स्थानों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उक्त रिक्त स्थान कब से खाली पड़े हैं; और

(ग) इन रिक्त स्थानों को कब तक भर दिया जायेगा अथवा भरने का विचार है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) और (ख) ब्यौरे विवरण में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे देखिए)

(ग) समूह क, ख तथा ग के संबंध में सभी विक्तियां कार्मिक एवं प्रसिद्धि विभाग को अधिसूचित कर दी गई हैं जो कि इन मामलों में कठोर निवेदन प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं। जैसे ही नामांकन प्राप्त होंगे, विक्तियों को पर विचार किया जाएगा। समूह 'घ' तथा विभागीय कैंटीन की विक्तियों को पहले की कक्षाओं वाले ही प्रारंभ कर दी गई है।

### विवरण

### अनुबंध

क्र.सं.	समूह	विधि	किस तरीका से विधि है
1.	क	1	14.11.98
2.	ख	1	29.2.96
3.	ग	8	1 20.04.96 से 3 13.02.98 से 1 22.04.98 से 1 13.05.98 से 2 30.06.96 से
4.	घ (विभागीय कैंटीन सहित)	2 सितम्बर, 95	5 1 29.01.96 से 1 02.06.98 से 1 31.08.98 से

### Air Services from Ahmedabad to South Africa

959. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the passengers boarding flights for South Africa and other parts of world at Mumbai international airport are from Gujarat;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time the Ahmedabad Airport will converted into Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) According to traffic figures furnished by Air India, only 1.63% of the total passenger carried by Air India between India and South Africa purchased their tickets in Gujarat in 1996-97. Air India discontinued its services to South Africa from 23rd February, 1997 due to low load factors. Only 1.01% of the total passengers carried on its entire network by Air India in 1997-98 purchased their tickets in Gujarat.

(b) Ahmedabad Airport has already been named "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport" on 7.12.96. The airport is being upgraded to international standards for operation of B-747 type of aircraft. In Phase-I runway is being strengthened and extended to 11500 ft with associated pavement work. This work is likely to be completed by November 2000.

Expansion plan submitted by Private Air operators

960. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI SATISHCHANDRA  
SITARAM PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jet-Ariways and other private air operators have submitted their expansion plans for consideration and clearance by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith financial and operational implications;

(c) the reaction of the concerned Ministries thereto;

(d) the present status of the proposal in terms of policy of Government in this regard;

(e) whether the said proposal will have any impact on Indian Airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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