

local Residents' Welfare Association and the school authorities over the parking of buses inside the park (play ground). At present, status quo has been granted by the court over this plot.

The school authorities have been advised to park their buses inside the school premises. Private hired buses are not allowed to be parked in front of the houses. However, buses arrive a little earlier than the time the school opens/closes. The school authorities have been advised to reduce this time to bare minimum.

Computerisation of registered Mail Services

3167. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out a detailed programme of computerisation of registered mail services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department has installed 2300 Multipurpose Counter Machines in Post Offices which can do registration booking, amongst other functions. The Department has computerised Registration Sorting work partially in Delhi, Mumbai, Madras and Hyderabad.

The Department's Annual Plan for 1996-97 visualises installation of 1500 computer based Multi-Purpose Counter Machines. The Plan also envisages computerisation of registration sorting work in more Mail Office subject to availability of funds.

Replacement of old aircrafts

3168. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of accidents of four IAF aircraft in one week in August, 1996;

(b) the special measures being taken to maintain the ageing Air fleet giving the details of phasing out of old aircraft; and

(c) whether new fighter aircraft are being purchased to ensure national security; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Three IAF aircrafts crashed in a week in August 1996. Courts of Inquiry for each crash are in progress to ascertain the cause of each accident.

(b) The Government proposes to upgrade the existing fleet to improve their performance and extend their life for a period of 10 years. There is also a plan to phase out 2-1/2 squadrons of old aircraft like Hunters and Canberra.

(c) The IAF propose to replace aircraft being phased out with newer and more modern versions.

Addition of mileage to National Highways in Maharashtra

3169. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the addition of mileage to National Highways in Maharashtra during the last five years and funds provided therefor;

(b) the schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the State Government for surface transport and the details of progress made under the Schemes, Schemewise, in Maharashtra in view of heavy traffic on National Highways in Western Maharashtra; and

(c) whether Government are considering provisions of additional funds to compete with the ever increasing volume of pressure of traffic and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) None.

(b) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for improvement of certain categories of roads under the Scheme of Economic and Inter-State Importance. One project costing Rs. 4 crore, with Central share