

fixed for finishing the projects and, as such, the price escalation was twice or thrice the original estimate. Therefore, considering this factor, will the Government fix a time for the completion of this line ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the progress on the line will naturally be commensurate with the funds provided, the allocations that are made.

SHRI P.K. KUNJACHEN : Sir, I wanted to know whether they will fix the time for the completion of this project. It takes a number of years for finishing the project. So, this is my question. Are you prepared to fix a time, number of years for completing the project ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This is a very vast project and it will proceed according to the funds provided. I cannot give any commitment as far as the completion of the project is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Extension of Broad Gauge Railway Line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh

2 SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any fresh proposal under Government's consideration for the extension of broad-gauge railway line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh during the 1988-90 annual plan; and

(b) if so by when the proposal for the extension of broadgauge line is likely to be taken up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Acquisition of Aircraft from USSR

***5 KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) how many Soviet aircraft are being procured on lease for Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot and of what make and at what cost;

(b) whether joint Indo-Soviet production of commercial jets is also proposed; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Soviet pilots would also be inducted along with their aircraft and whether there has been any protest by Indian pilots; if so, on what grounds; and

(d) whether Indian Airlines is starting joint services with Aeroflot to Moscow or Tashkent by flying leased Soviet aircraft; and if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Indian Airlines have a proposal to procure two Soviet aircraft on wetlease :—

- (i) TU-154 at lease charge of Rs. 80,000 per flying hour and
- (ii) IL-62M aircraft at lease charge of Rs. 70,000 per flying hour.

There is no proposal to take Soviet aircraft on lease for Vayudoot.

Air India is already using one IL-62M Aircraft of Aeroflot taken on wetlease at a charge of 3,000 Roubles per flying hour and one IL-76 aircraft for freighter flights under the Aeroflot/Air India Charter arrangements at a lease charge per flight which varies from Rs. 2.94 lakhs to Rs. 3.60 lakhs depending on the route operated.

(b) The views on this point are yet to be crystallised.

(c) The wetleased Soviet aircraft would be flown by Soviet crew. The ICPA have stated that the induction of Soviet aircraft with foreign pilots would reduce their workload and would compromise with the security of the country. Soviet crews are, however, already flying aircraft wetleased by Air India from Aeroflot in the past. Therefore, there is nothing new in the use of Soviet pilots on aircraft leased by an Indian Carrier.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Commercial arrangement for joint operations have not been worked out between the two airlines.

Foreign Exchange Earnings by Tourism Industry

*6. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the total income in foreign exchange in the tourism industry during the last three years;

(b) whether after the declaration of tourism as an industry, there has been an increase in the proposals for construction of new hotels and expansion of existing hotels; and

(c) whether the Institutional Financing Agencies, both central and in the States, have been given necessary guidance to consider tourism as an Industry and thereby effect consequential changes in the liberalisation of financing pattern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the

last three years are:—

Year	Rs. crores
1985-86.	1460
1986-87.	1780
1987-88.	1890

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

Conversion of Railway Lines

*7. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 92 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th November, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the total amount required for the ongoing projects of Railways for conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge in different parts of the country;

(b) what is the portion of Manmad-Parbhani-Parli-Vaijnath rail line converted and the amount spent so far;

(c) what was the total estimated cost of the conversion of this line; and

(d) by when the conversion of Manmad-Parli and Adilabad-parbhani lines would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs. 504 crores (Ruppees five hundred and four crores) approximately.

(b) No portion of this rail line has been completed. Approximately Rs. 14 crores have been spent upto 31.12.88.

(c) The original estimated cost of the conversion, as approved in 1974-75, was Rs. 28 crores.