

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education, 1986, envisages that, in the interest of greater co-ordination and consistency in policy, sharing of facilities and developing inter-disciplinary research, a national body covering higher education in general, agricultural, medical, technical, legal and other professional fields will be set up. In pursuance of this the establishment of a mechanism for co-ordination among the various Central agencies involved in the development of higher education in different fields is under discussion. The details of its composition, functions, etc., have not been finalised.

(b) As the proposed mechanism is intended primarily to bring about greater co-ordination among the existing Central agencies no discussions with the State Governments are envisaged.

Cancellation of trains on Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva route

50. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many trains on Bhavnagar-Talaja-Mahuva route have been cancelled due to shortage of water and that these trains have not so far been restored; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof as on date and what are the reasons for their cancellation and when they are likely to commence again?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) 495/496 Bhavnagar-Mahuva, 497/498 Bhavnagar-Talaja and 499/500 Bhavnagar-Mahuva have now been cancelled permanently due to poor patronisation.

Higher issue price of aviation fuel in the country

51. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international airlines do not prefer to refuel their aircraft in India due to higher issue price of aviation fuel;

(b) what are the comparative issue prices of fuel to international airlines in India, Gulf countries and at other international airports; and

(c) whether it is a fact that on account of higher issue price of aviation fuel in India, the country is losing substantial aviation and tourism business; if so what are the details of the corrective measures being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATEL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel fixed for international airways at Indian and some other foreign airports are as under:—

	US Cents/per US Gallon
Bombay	90.82
Madras	90.82
Calcutta	91.35
Delhi	93.25
Dubai	66
Singapore	49.31
New York	58
London	55.35
Frankfurt	69
Geneva	67
Sydney	59

(c) High fuel prices affect international airways operations and to some extent passenger arrivals to India. A decision has been taken to provide bulk discount on ATF prices to international airways as per details given below:

Annual volume of uplift in India exceeding	Bulk discount of fuel price	
50,000 KL	2% on entire quantity	
75,000 KL	3%	Do.
100,000 KL	5%	Do.
125,000 KL	10%	Do.
150,000 KL	15%	Do.
175,000 KL	20%	Do.
200,000 KL	25%	Do.
225,000 KL	30%	Do.

These discounts are available for all international airways and is effective from 5th September, 1988.

Progress of Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway

52. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway is going on as per the schedule, if so, when it is likely to be completed;

(b) what was the original estimated cost of this project;

(c) whether there is any escalation in the cost of project, if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any aid, loan or capital investment from World Bank, IMF or any other international or domestic agency, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for extending this Highway upto Talsali or

any other place, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The construction of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway is at present behind schedule. However, efforts are being made to make up the slippages and to complete the work by February, 1992.

(b) and (c) The original sanctioned cost of the project is Rs. 128.4 crores and on the basis of tenders accepted for the various sections the cost works out to about Rs. 153.00 crores.

(d) Loan assistance from World Bank is available for the project. They would provide 46 per cent of cost of Civil works excluding Land Acquisition.

(e) There is no proposal at present to extend the expressway beyond Vadodara.

Increase in cargo traffic

53. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st August, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the percentage increase in cargo traffic during the last three years in (i) Indian Airlines and (ii) Air India;

(b) what is the estimated increase in traffics in respect of above mentioned two airlines during the next three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the increase demands in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL):

(a) and (b) The percentage increase in cargo traffic of Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years and the