

Air services in Jammu and Kashmir

505. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gurez, Tangdar, Poonch, Rajouri and Kistawar are economically backward areas of the Jammu and Kashmir and remain cut off from the country during winter; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide air services to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. These are economically backward areas but not all of them remain cut off during winter.

(b) Subject to economic viability of operations and availability of infrastructure, Vayudoot has plans to provide air services to Rajouri, Poonch and Kistawar.

Accidents involving buses operating under D.T.C.

506. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of persons killed by Delhi Transport Corporation buses in Delhi during the last three years and upto 15th November, 1985;

(b) whether the persons killed, by private buses running under DTC operation are also included in it, if so, what is their number and if not, the number of persons killed by private buses operating under DTC;

(c) what are the reasons of the high casualty by these buses; and

(d) what is the total amount of compensation by the DTC and private bus owners paid during the above period and what is the maximum and minimum amount of compensation paid so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The information is as under:—

Year	No. of buses in DTC fleet	No. of persons killed
1982	3877	218
1983	4048	226
1984	4004	229
1985	4031	215
		(Up to the 15th November, 1985)

(b) No Sir. According to the information received by the DTC, the number of persons killed in accidents involving pri-

vate buses under DTC operation is given below:—

Year	No. of P.O. buses under DTC	No. of persons killed
1982	752	Not available
1983	798	Not available
1984	1163	79
1985	1385	83
		(Up to the 15th November, 1985)

These figures are registered by Delhi Police in that area.

(c) Although the DTC driver is alleged to be the main factor responsible for road accidents, there are other various factors such as road condition, increase in traffic congestion, encroachment of roads, mixed modes of transport, boarding and alighting by the passengers when the bus is moving and negligence on the part of other road users,

(d) The total amount paid as compensation to the victims of accidents involving DTC buses during the last three years is given below:—

Year	Amount of compensation
	(Rs.)
1982	20,42,412.91
1983	58,91,090.75
1984	25,03,069.85
1985	42,84,607.29 (Upto the 15th November, 1985)

DTC does not maintain record of amount of compensation paid by private operators to the victims of accidents. The maximum and minimum amount of the compensation paid by the DTC is as under:—

Maximum	Rs. 3,56,223
Minimum	R. 1000

Unmanned Railway crossings

507. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons were killed recently when Cachar Express rammed into a private bus at a level crossing near Guwahati;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the enquiry, if any, conducted into the accident and the action taken thereon;

(c) what is the number of unmanned railway level crossings at the beginning

of 1985 (Division-wise) and how many of these have been manned (till date) as against the target;

(d) whether any comprehensive plan has been formulated to man the remaining unmanned railway level crossings; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 6-10-1985, while 201 up Cachar Express was on run between Naranzi and Panikhaiti stations on Lumding Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, it collided with a private bus No. ASK 722 at a manned level crossing. As a result, 27 bus passengers were killed and 29 injured. A statutory inquiry has been conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, N.E. circle, Gorakhpur into this accident. According to his findings the collision was caused due to the bus attempting to cross the said level crossing whose gates were kept wide open to road traffic in the face of approaching Cachar Express. The Gateman and station Superintendent of Panikhaiti station have been held responsible for the accident. Orders for dismissal of Gateman under Rule 14(ii) of Railway Servants Discipline & Appeal Rules have since been issued. Disciplinary action against Station Superintendent has also been initiated.

(c) The details of unmanned level crossings on the Northeast Frontier Railway a son 1-4-85, are as follows:

Katihar Division	538
Alipurduar Division	528
Lumding Division	107
Tinsukia	169
TOTAL	1342

During the period April-September, 1985 3 unmanned level crossings have been manned, 6 level crossings are programmed for manning during the year 1985-86.