New Building for Indian Airlines in Imphal

1571. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the new building for the Indian Airlines unit in Imphal;

(b) whether the existing facilities for booking and other purposes at the Indian Airlines premises in Imphal are sufficient; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to obviate delays in the completion of the new building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Construction of the new city booking office at Imphal is complete except for a few modifications required for augmenting passenger facilities.

(b) and (c) While the existing facilities at Imphal are not sufficient, the new premises, when commisisoned, will ensure provision of necessary facilities.

Improvement of facilities on Imphal Airport

1572. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps taken or being taken to improve the facilities in the Imphal Airport Terminal in respect of (i) better catering service, (ii) more space for arrival and departure lounges, with toilet facilities for both separately: and (iii) more spacious and better furnished reserved V.I.P. Lounge etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): There is a proposal for extension and modification of the terminal building at the Imphal airport to cater to 300 arriving passengers and 300 departing passengers simultaneously. The scheme is planned to be taken up during 1991-92 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.5 crores. All modern passenger amenities are taken care of in the new design such as restaurant, snack bar, post office and shops; air conditioning of the departure hold area; rest rooms: and spacious well furnished VIP rooms.

Conservation and Expansion of Rupsa-Bangiri Posi

1573. SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has recently been ordered to convert the present narrow gauge Rupsa-Bangiri Posi Railway line into broad gauge and to extend it to Dhalbhum;

(b) if so, when the survey is likely to be completed; and

(c) the estimated expenditure of conversion and extension of the said line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Updating of the survey carried out in 1979-80 was ordered in December '90

(b) The updating of the survey has been completed.

(c) The cost as worked out in updated survey is:

For conversion of Rupsa-Bangiriposi NG line to BG (89 km)	Rs. 51.59 crores.
For conversion of Rupsa-Bangiriposi NG line to BG and its extension to Dalbhumgarh (131 km)	Rs. 85.47 crores.

Air India Flights to South East Asia

1574. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase flights to South East Asia, i.e. Singapore and Bangkok in order to make up losses in Air India's earning in Middle East Sector due to outbreak of the Gulf War;