

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Section 18(e) of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, provides for permission being accorded to private parties to operate scheduled air transport services for passenger and cargo, on a regular basis. Government will examine the position if and when any specific request in this regard is received.

(b) The purpose is to provide scope for air services where Indian Airlines are not in a position to operate.

(c) As per regulations, a private operator may be permitted to operate on any route other than that served by Indian Airlines scheduled services.

Setting up of Tramway Project by Nepal

*441. SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal has approached India to help her in setting up a tramway project for the Kathmandu valley;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) to what extent the assistance will be given to Nepal for setting up this project ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Recovery of materials stolen from museum of Maharaja of Jaipur

*442. SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a search party under C.B.I. carried out searches in the house of Kunwar Sangram Singh, former Director of the Museum of Maharaja of Jaipur;

(b) whether 2000 rare old paintings were recovered in the search;

(c) whether 150 old statues have also been recovered from the same place by Rajasthan Police who assisted the C.B.I. party; and

(d) whether all these are considered to be stolen materials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2008 paintings were seized during the search of the house of Shri Sangram Singh at Jaipur.

(c) 229 stone, Brass, Bronze and Terra-cotta statues were also found during searches and taken over by the Rajasthan Police;

(d) Since all these articles are yet to be identified, it cannot be said at present whether these or any of them are stolen or not.

Ceiling on State Cabinets recommended by A.R.C.

*443. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission regarding the sizes of the Cabinets at the Centre and in the States;

(b) whether Government agree with the recommendation, and if so, how and when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the procedure that will be followed for the implementation of the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). The recommendation regarding the size of the Council of Ministers at the Centre was made by the Administrative Reforms Commission in their report on the Machinery of the Government of India and its Procedures of Work and regarding the Councils of Ministers in the States in their report on State Administration. The reports are