

[English]

Development of Civil Aviation

3084. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to develop Civil Aviation facilities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The present policy on civil aviation is oriented towards modernisation, expansion and liberalisation. As a part of this policy, the Air Corporations Act, 1953 was repealed thereby permitting operation of scheduled domestic services by private airlines. Both Air India and Indian Airlines were converted into companies for development and expansion. It has been decided to merge Vayudoot with Indian Airlines for better management and utilisation of resources. To ensure that air transport services grow in a balanced manner have been issued requiring operators of trunk routes to provide defined minimum capacity in the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands. Regional airlines are being encouraged to airlin far flung and hitherto unconnected districts and towns. Pawan Hans is providing essential helicopter services to oil sector and has plans to acquire modern helicopters. Commercial services have been recently introduced by Paswan Hans to connect Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh which is located in a hilly/difficult terrain.

Development of airports/aviation infrastructure which was funded by Government so far has been opened to private parties/NRIs. Airport traffic management facilities are being modernised and the country is moving towards satellite based communication system for more efficient and modern air transport management system. Fourteen airports are being developed as model airports for limited international operations.

Air India and Indian Airlines have been operating international services to utilise the bilateral entitlements available for this country. Air India is also augmenting its capacity by wet leasing aircraft to meet the short term capacity shortfall. New destinations are being added. During bilateral negotiations efforts are being made to obtain more traffic rights for the airlines of this country so that services could be operated to more destinations.

[Translation]

Bank Loan to SSI in Rajasthan

3085. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative figures of loans disbursed to small scale industries by the nationalised banks in Rajasthan and in other States; and

(b) the comparative figures of repaying position of the small scale industries of Rajasthan and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However as per the latest available data with RBI, the details on the number of small scale industries (SSI) accounts and the amount of public sector banks' loans outstanding in the State of Rajasthan and for the country as a whole as on the last Friday of March 1992, March 1993 and March 1994 are as under :

(Rs. crore)

| As on the Last Friday of March | Rajasthan | | All India | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | No. of SSI Accounts | Amount Outstanding | No. of SSI Account | Amount Outstanding |
| 1992 | 114147 | 440.80 | 2862777 | 17487.08 |
| 1993 | 112476 | 466.13 | 2828596 | 18737.55 |
| 1994 | 111474 | 509.85 | 2879483 | 21440.32 |

[English]

Levy on Flight Charges

3086. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the flight charges being levied by Private Airlines on their tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether flights charges are also being charged by Indian Airlines and Air India and also being increased;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any study has been conducted to know the effect of the hike of flight charges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). Air India, Indian Airlines and Private airlines charge airfare from passengers. While the international airfare charged by Air India is generally in line with the IATA guidelines, domestic fares in case of Indian Airlines are decided by its Board of Directors. Any increase in fare is necessitated by increase in cost of operations. Private airlines charge fares keeping in view the market conditions.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.