

(a) the number of airlines based in the United States fly to India and the frequency of their flights;

(b) the frequency of Air India's flights to the United States;

(c) whether the U.S. Government has refused to concede additional landing rights to Air India in the United States, particularly in Washington DC, Chicago, Atlanta and Houston;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government would consider imposing ceiling on U.S. flights to India to maintain parity; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) At present, Delta Airlines, Tower Airlines and United Airlines of U.S.A. are operating flights to India with seven, two and fourteen frequencies a week respectively.

(b) Air India is presently operating seven services a week to U.S.A.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and U.S.A. on 2.12.1995 permits Air India to serve Chicago and four additional points of choice in the U.S. for direct operations and another five additional points of choice for operations under Co-operative Services Arrangement.

(e) and (f) The above M.O.U. also provides that North West Airlines of U.S.A. will not be allowed entry upto January, 1997 and no other U.S. airline will start direct operations to India until 1st November, 1998.

Scheme for Increasing Tourism Traffic

4187. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to attract more foreign tourists to India during the next five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Government is making continuous efforts to attract more foreign tourists to the country through improvement of infrastructural facilities, strengthening of publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas markets and development of human resources for the sector.

Basic Amenities at International/Domestic Airports

4188. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide basic amenities at all International and domestic Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) have already provided all basic passenger amenities at its international and domestic airports from where scheduled commercial services operate. Upgradation/improvement of facilities is a constant process, keeping in view the need for additional facilities and availability of financial resources.

Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.

4189. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Cooperation Ltd. has not placed the annual reports for the past 5 years on the Table of the House;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there are cases of misuse of funds in the Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The Registrar, Co-operative Societies of National Capital Territory of Delhi has reported that there is no provision in the Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 1972 and the Rules framed thereunder for laying the Annual Reports of the Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DCHFCL) on the Table of the House. It has also been informed that the Annual Report of the Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. is circulated amongst the members of the Corporation in its General Body Meeting as per Sector 29 of the Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 1972.

(c) and (d) As per information furnished by the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, National Capital Territory of Delhi, there are no cases of misuse of funds in the Corporation.

International bid for ticketing

4190. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited international bids for ticketing arrangements for Government officials travelling abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on the business of the Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cannanore and Mahe Textile Mills

4191. SHRI MULIAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive the Cannanore Spinning, and weaving Mills at Cannanore, Kerala and its subsidiary at Mahe; and

(b) if so, the amount likely to be allocated for the renovation/expansion or revival of these mills under NTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Government has already approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills involving modernisation of 79 mills at an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. This includes modernisation of Cannanore Mills, Cannanore at an investment of Rs.10.52 crores. The revised Turn Around Strategy has been placed before the BIFR for their approval before implementation. In regard to Cannanore Mills at Mahe, NTC had already taken up modernisation of this mill during the 7th plan period at a cost of Rs.3.85 crores. This mill has earned net profit during the last two years.

National Commission of Bonded and Child Labour

4192. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the establishment of a National Commission on Bonded and Child Labour for monitoring the effective implementation of the relevant laws enacted for prohibition, regulation, liberation and rehabilitation of such labour and for advising the Government on policy and further remedial measures; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of setting up of National Commission of Bonded Labour was placed before the State Labour Ministers Conference in 1992 which decided to refer this issue to a Committee of 13 State Labour Ministers under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister of Maharashtra. As the Committee could not meet due to various reasons, the Union Labour Minister called the meeting of State Labour Ministers concerned on 18.5.1995 in New Delhi. This was preceded by a meeting of State Labour Secretaries on 17.5.1995. The general consensus which emerged following lengthy deliberations was that in view of the National Human Rights Commission having been set up, there was no need for a separate Commission on Bonded Labour. The Government having duly considered the recommendation have decided to accept it.

The Government have taken several steps to tackle the problem of Child Labour. A National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour under the Chairmanship of

Union Labour Minister has been constituted in September, 1994. The approach of the Government is to implement all the child related provisions of the law in harmonious fashion. As such, it is felt that there is no need to set up a National Commission on Child Labour.

Export of Raw Cotton

4193. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to allow export of one lakh bales of raw cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the export of raw cotton is likely to affect adversely India's competitive edge in exporting cotton-based textiles and the foreign exchange therefrom;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Indian Cotton Mills Federation (ICMF) has expressed great resentment and strongly criticised the aforesaid decision of the Government;

(f) if so, the details of the view points of ICMF; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) As in previous years the Government has allowed the export of one lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton. In addition in order to encourage modernisation in the ginning and pressing sector, a quota of one lakh bales for export by modern ginning and pressing units been announced.

(c) to (g) The Indian Cotton Mills Federation (ICMF) had recently represented that if exports of cotton are allowed, the financial viability of textile units would be adversely affected.

The Government policy is to allow export of cotton only after assessment has been made of the production, domestic availability and demand, keeping in view the interests of the growers, on the one hand, and the requirement of different categories of consumers, particularly those in the decentralised Sectors, on the other.

Smuggling of RDX

4194. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and the value of RDX recovered from the different parts of the country during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard and the action taken against them; and

(c) the details of the stern action taken by the Government to check the smuggling of R.D.Xs. in the country?