

travel in the aircraft only after accommodating revenue paying passengers. Records are, however not being maintained for other categories of persons to whom free air passes are issued.

(d) and (e) There is at present, no proposal to give any free ticketson Indian Airlines flights to freedom fighters and ex-defence personnel.

Pakistan Lifted Restrictions on Trade with India

512. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has come out in favour of lifting restrictions on trade with India that have been linked mainly to political tensions with the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details of items likely to be exported to Pakistan;

(c) whether Pakistan is trading with India through a third country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has been importing Indian goods through third countries. However, no reliable assessment of such indirect trade is possible.

[Translation]

Air Link In States

513. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to airlink some of the places in each State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) At present, Indian Airlines have no plans to airlink any new station on the domestic network due to operating crew constraints. However, private operators are encouraged to add more stations in their network. Agra, Lucknow, Varanasi and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh are already airlinked by Scheduled Operators.

[English]

India Brand Promotion Fund

514. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the idea behind the setting up India Brand Promotion Fund; and

(b) the details regarding constitution of Fund and its management and its scope and nature of activities to be covered under the Fund ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The basic objective of the proposed India Brand Equity Fund is to project the strengths of the Indian economy in overseas markets. The Fund will assist Indian industries/companies to access new markets and to promote Indian industry, products and brands. The details regarding constitution of the Fund its scope, and nature of activities are under finalisation.

Inspection of Mutual Funds by SEBI

515. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the inspection of mutual funds by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has revealed several disturbing features;

(b) if so, the precise revelations made by the SEBI prove into the various unfair practices by mutual funds; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Saving Schemes

516. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of saving schemes with details offered by the Govt. to small investors during 1994-95;

(b) the response of investors to those schemes;

(c) whether some proposals offering incentive scheme are under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with objectives ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The information is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) the response of the investors towards the schemes has been very enthusiastic Small Savings collections during 1994-95 have shown an increase of 37.4% over the collections during 1993-94;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.