

dates in Air India and Indian Airlines. Reservation for OBC candidates has been introduced recently and therefore, no special recruitment drive has been conducted.

(c) As a result of the special recruitment drive, the number of SCs/STs candidates appointed/issued offer of appointment, in various categories, are as under:-

Group	AI		IA	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
A	6	3	1	—
B	2	1	15	18
C	2	1	15	22
D	178	12	13	11

[English]

Tourists in Kashmir

519. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to kidnapping of foreign tourists in the Kashmir Valley during 1995, there has been a decline in the visit of foreigners as well as Indian tourists to the valley;

(b) if so, the details of the tourists visited during the last six months; and

(c) how many five and lesser star-hotels are located in the valley and the occupancy ratio in these hotels during the year 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) There was a decline in foreign tourist arrivals in the Kashmir Valley for only three months after the kidnapping of a group of foreign tourists in July, 1995. The details of month-wise foreign tourist arrivals during July to December 1995 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year are as given below :-

Month	Foreign Tourist Arrival in the Valley	
	1994	1995
July	1721	1477
August	1415	1067
September	1296	555
October	578	593
November	324	455
December	322	673
Total	5656	4820

No domestic tourist visited the Kashmir Valley during July to December either in 1995 or in 1994.

(c) There are three 5-star and six 2-star hotels located in the Valley and the tourist occupancy in these hotels during 1994-95 has been negligible.

Satellite-based Net-work system for Airports

520. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a satellite-based national network for airports throughout the country on build-and-transfer basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter alia the number of airports to be covered, the financial implications and the funding thereof etc;

(c) whether the Government have finalised the methodology to be adopted for selection of the company-domestic or multinational-to be entrusted with the job for installation of the proposed network system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Airports Authority of India Plans to set up a dedicated satellite based communication network to meet its requirements.

(b) All operational airports will be covered by this network. A sum of Rs.50 crores is likely to be spent on this project and the funds will be generated from internal resources.

(c) and (d) Hardware and software for this communication network will be procured by means of 'Open tenders'.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

521. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCs) in the country;

(b) the details of VRCs which are set up exclusively for evaluation of the Handicapped persons and which are the Centres which have been set up for the providing inplant training as well;

(c) when the inplant training was started in these Centres; and

(d) the steps being taken to attract more handicapped persons to avail facilities in such Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Currently 17 VRCs are functioning in the country for evaluating the residual capacity of handicapped persons and providing rehabilitation services to them. All these VRCs conduct evaluation and impart inplant training to the handicapped persons.