

**Khajuraho Airport**

3321. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Khajuraho Airport to somewhere else in view of the security of Khajuraho Temple;

(b) if so, the place where it is proposed to be shifted;

(c) whether the above shifting of the airport is likely to decrease the earnings from domestic and foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to review its decision?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Diversion of Funds**

3322. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the funds allocated for the development of tribal areas of Bihar is diverted for flood and drought relief every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

[English]

**Hostel facility to SC/ST students**

3323. SHRI K. PRADHANI:  
SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe students provided the hostel facility during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the dropouts in schools in Scheduled areas particularly of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students;

(c) whether the steps taken in this regard are sufficient to prevent dropouts;

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such high dropouts?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A total number of 31,568, 35,361 and 22,994 SC/ST students were provided with hostel facilities during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Constructions of Boys and Girls Hostels for SCs/STs.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) to (e). Several steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments to reduce dropout among SC/ST students. Some of the steps taken by the Central Government are:

- Provision of incentives such as scholarships, text-books, hostel facilities etc.,
- Provision of primary schools within one Km. distance for habitation with a population of 200;
- Improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme as Operation Black Boards;
- Adoption of target group oriented strategies and fixing of separate targets for access, anticipation and achievement for ST children;
- Diversification and improvement of programme of non-formal education for children who remain outside the formal school system;
- Opening of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas.

As a result of these measures, dropout rate among SC/ST students is generally declining.

[Translation]

**Exploitation of Labourers**

3324. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers of Bihar particularly those of tribal areas are migrating to other States;

(b) whether the above mentioned labourers are exploited in other States; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken up by the Government to protect these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Government are aware that workers from economically backward areas migrate to other States for seeking temporary employment in seasonal activities, for better prospects and higher wages.

(b) Although such workers are prone to exploitation, however, as per NCRL report (1987—91), the incomes of migrant labour are higher than what they might have been able to earn without migration.

(c) The Government have enacted the Inter-State Migrant (Recs) Act, 1979 to regulate their employment and provide for their conditions of service etc. The Government are also implementing several poverty alleviation programmes like, IRDP, EAS, JRY, IJRY, DWA CRA, TRYSEM etc. designed for acquiring income generating assets and for generating additional gainful employment for those below the poverty line. The outlay on these programmes has been substantially stepped up during the VIIIth Plan.

[English]

#### Quality Programmes

3325. SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether people in Punjab mostly watch the programmes telecast by Pakistan Television as they consider such programmes more interesting;

(b) if so, whether during the telecast anti-India propaganda is also made by Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to telecast the programmes of much standard and interest so as to ensure that the Indians are not in anyway misled by Pakistan's anti-India propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Pakistan Television does indulge in anti-India propaganda.

(c) It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to telecast suitable programmes to counter the Pak propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happenings and developments in the country and abroad.

[Translation]

#### Air India Irregular Service

3326. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights of Air India which were irregular and could not take off on Schedule during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to consider to provide alternative arrangements to the passengers in case of delay of one hour or more in the flights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 1746 single flights were cancelled during the period April, 1994 to March, 1996 due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, technical snags etc.

(b) to (d). In case of delay of one to two hours, passengers are provided with refreshments at the airport. In the event of extended delay, alternative arrangements on first available flights are made subject to availability of capacity.

[English]

#### Vizag Steel Plant

3327. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquired by the Vizag Steel Plant has been fully utilised;

(b) if not, whether the vacant land is proposed to be returned to the owners; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). The requirement of land for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was initially estimated to be 27,455 acres in 1980. Subsequently, the requirement was brought down to 22,978 acres by excluding thickly populated villages and hill areas situated around the periphery of land boundary. Land acquired as on date is 21,655 acres, including 9,625 acres of Government land. Out of the acquired land, 3626 acres have been earmarked for expansion of the Plant and the Township and also for the Green Belt, as per the stipulation of Department of Environment while the remaining land has been utilised.