

providing for labour protection, social security, minimum wages, etc. for agricultural workers.

Representation to Trade Unions in the Conference is determined on the basis of an established procedure based on varified strength of the trade unions. Sectoral strength is not the only criterion for consideration of representation in the conference

Inland Air Services and Amenities to Passengers

*109. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to revamp and make punctual the inland air services and to provide amenities to the passengers;

(b) whether the private air services are attracting more passengers in comparison to that of the Indian Airlines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor.

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to make Indian Airlines more attractive and profitable; and

(e) the prospective action plan of the Government in view of rising requirement of the domestic air services, increasing number of passengers and operating more air services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) To provide additional capacity and a competitive market environment, the Air Corporations Act, 1953 was repealed on 1st March, 1994. It enabled the entry of private airlines in the domestic sector which not only provided additional capacity but also improved services for the benefit of the passengers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Airlines is taking steps to improve its product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and increase revenue.

(e) With a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

Draft Bill Regarding Right to Information

*110. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Press Council of India has given a draft Bill to the Government regarding right to information;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft bill; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The draft Bill on Right to Information formulated by the Press Council of India is under examination of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

STATEMENT

Salient Features of the Draft Bill on Right to Information

The Bill seeks to impart to the citizens of the country the Right to Information relating to affairs of a 'public body' including :

(a) 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India;

(b) All public undertakings and non-satutory authorities;

(c) A company, corporation, society, trust, firm or a co-operative society, whether owned or controlled by the Government or by private individuals and institutions whose activities affect the public interest.

2. The public body has been cast the duty of maintaining all records duly catalogued and indexed and making it available to the person requesting information.

3. The right extends to all individuals, whether citizens or not, in so far as the information affects their life and liberty.

4. The information can be withheld by the public body, for reasons to be recorded in writing if —

(a) its disclosure is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of the country, or to the security of the State, and friendly relations with foreign States, or public order, investigation of an offence or which leads to incitement to an offence;

(b) it is related to personal and medical information and other such information, the disclosure of which has no bearing on public affair and would constitute a clear and unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(c) if it relates to trade and commercial secrets protected by Law.

Provided that information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or the State Legislature shall not be denied to the citizens.

5. The public body has been cast the duty to notify for information of general public such matters within its knowledge and control as are vital to their life, health and livelihood but not commonly known.