

### **Working Conditions of Air India Air Hostesses**

2802. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any directive that there should be no discrimination between male and female in the matter of working conditions and age of retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the directive was reviewed by the Government pertaining to the Air India Air Hostesses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRIMADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The directive issued by Ref. No. AV. 18022/23/88-ACIA dated 16th October, 1989 required that airhostesses in Air India and Indian Airlines would also be allowed to serve till the age of 58 years. There would be no ban on marriage by airhostesses. Further, they would continue to be subjected to medical examination once a year after the age of 35 years and strict weight restriction regime.

(c) and (d). The matter was reviewed and it was clarified the increase in the age of retirement to 58 years did not specify the job functions and airhostesses could be given suitable alternate jobs and that the male cabin crew as well as airhostesses turn out attractively and the management may prescribe suitable medical examination and weight regime for both types of cabin crew.

[*Translation*]

### **Oil Exploration in Bihar**

2803. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the efforts made so far for oil exploration in Jayanagar, Raxaul and other places in Bihar touching Nepal border; and

(b) the steps being taken to give impetus to these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) So far, 5 exploratory wells have been drilled by ONGC in Bihar and all have proved dry.

(b) At present one well is under drilling in Bihar by ONGC. Two blocks in Northern Bihar have been proposed to be included in the Fourth Round of bidding for exploration.

### **Extension of Ait-Konch Passenger Train to Etawah**

2804. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Ait-Konch passenger train upto Etawah in Jhansi division; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

### **Passenger Amenities at Madan Mahal Station**

2805. SHRISHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic amenities at Madan

*Mahal Station near Jabalpur are inadequate to meet the demand of passengers;*

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage of all mail and express trains at the station in view of its central location; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Delay in Air India Flights**

2806. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Ratty business abroad A.I." appearing in the Times of India dated July 17, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken by the Government in the matter; and

(c) the total number of flights delayed due to rat menace in the last couple of months?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Air India flight No. 304 Bombay-Delhi-Tokyo of July 17, 1991 was delayed by 5 hrs. 15 minutes and operated with another aircraft because of a rat having been noticed in that aircraft while

*flying from Muscat to Bombay. In consultation with experts, Air India takes regular rodent control measures like fumigation of the aircraft and use of rodent control devices like rat traps and glue plates inside the aircraft. Rodent control measures are also carried out in the hangars, cabin catering building and canteen hi-lifts.*

(c) During the months of June and July, 1991, the following three flights were delayed due to ratmenace:

1. AI-112 of July 7, 1991-New York/London/Delhi/Bombay.

2. AI-830 of July 13, 1991-Bombay/Trivandrum.

3. AI/304 of July 17, 1991-Bombay/Delhi/Tokyo.

#### **Discontinuance of Vayudoot/Airbus Service**

2807. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot/Airbus services from Bombay-Pune-Bombay (Evening flight), Pune-Hyderabad, Pune-Nagpur, Pune-Aurangabad have been discontinued for the last several months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) when these services are likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). At present Vayudoot is operating on the Bombay-Pune-Bombay and Hyderabad-Pune routes. For commercial and operational reasons, air services between Pune-Nagpur and Pune-Aurangabad have been discontinued. There is no proposal to