

to time Government of India have been reviewing the restrictions imposed on the movement of foreigners in Sikkim ; only last week Government of India have relaxed the procedure for entry of foreigners into Sikkim.

Agencies Probing on the Crash of Air India Jambo Jet 'Kanishka'

282. SHRI T. BASHEER :

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the agencies probing on the crash of the Air India Flight 'Kanishka' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : Government of India has appointed Justice B.N. Kirpal of the Delhi High Court as a Court to hold a formal investigation of the accident, under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Preliminary investigation was conducted by the Inspector of Accidents appointed by the Director General, Civil Aviation.

Discussion to Boost Tourism In West Bengal

283. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of Forest and Tourism of West Bengal met him on 25 June, 1985 in New Delhi and discussed with him the need to boost tourism in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, details of the discussions that took place ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the request made by the Minister of Forest and Tourism of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) A meeting was held between the West Bengal Minister of State in-charge of Tourism and the Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation on 13th

June, 1985 and not on 25th June, 1985.

(b) and (c). The following are the details of the discussions that took place :—

(i) Construction of Tourist Lodge and cottages at Digha to be considered for execution by the State Agency after obtaining necessary clearance from Central Public Works Department.

(ii) New Schemes which were discussed in the meeting were introduction of rafting & canoeing on the rapids Rangeet—Tista & the creeks of the Sunderbans ; tourist facilities at Bijanbari in Darjeeling District, introduction of launch cruise on the Hoogly. However, the details of these schemes are awaited from the State Government.

(iii) For the construction of pilgrim's sheds at Sagar Island, a representative of Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti would hold discussions with the district authorities for speedy implementation of the scheme.

(iv) For the relaxation of restriction of foreigner's visit to North Bengal, it was agreed that the matter would be further pursued with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(v) For increasing the number of flights from and to Calcutta, the State Govt. was requested to consider reduction of sales-tax on aviation fuel so as to give incentive to foreign airlines.

(vi) The West Bengal Minister requested the Union Minister to ensure proper publicity of West Bengal tourism in foreign countries. The Union Government officials assured that no effort was being spared in this regard. However, the State Government should on its part supply Central agencies with sufficient publicity materials regarding places of tourist interest in order to supplement Central efforts.

Manufacture of Tele-Communication Equipment

284. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to encourage private sector to manufacture tele-communication equipment ;

(b) if so, details of the plan to encourage private sector; and

(c) details of the equipments being manufactured by the private/public sector at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Telecommunication equipment consists of switching and transmission equipments as well as subscriber and equipment. In the liberalised policy of the Government, private sector is encouraged to manufacture subscriber and equipment like telephones, teleprinters, etc., while in the switching and transmission equipment public sector will play a dominant role. However, participation of private sector along with public sector institutions will be permitted in the manufacture of switching and transmission equipment.

(c) While all switching, transmission, radio and terminal equipment, are now being made in the public sector, 50 Letters of Intent/Approvals have been issued to organised/small scale units for manufacture of telephones, electronic PABX, electronic teleprinters and pay phone.

Selection of Indian Scientists for Flying with U S. Space Shuttle

285. SHRI V. TULSI RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final selection of the Indian Scientists for flying with the United States Space Shuttle, during the next year, has since been completed ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) when they are expected to leave for the United States to undergo necessary training ; and

(d) the station where they will undergo the training, duration of the training and how much amount is expected to be incurred for their training and how it is proposed to be met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-

LOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The selection of the two final candidates for the Indian Payload Specialist, to fly on a United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Shuttle flight in mid- 1986 alongwith INSAT-IC has been completed. Only one of these two will eventually fly. The selection of the primary vs back-up candidate is expected only by end of 1985. These candidates have passed the NASA medical examinations. The candidates are :—

1. Shri P. Radhakrishnan Nair

2. Shri N.C. Bhat

(c) and (d). The training programme will cover training in STS Orbiter, STS flight, INSAT-IC with particular reference to its development from STS bay and the experiments to be performed. The training will be provided in India and in U.S.A. The details are being worked out. NASA training for the primary candidate is expected to be of the order of 16 weeks. The training costs will be met by the Government of India.

[Translation]

Factor Responsible for the Crash of Air India Aeroplane

286. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the statement of the Secretary of the Ministry, six factors responsible for the crash of an Air India aeroplane 'Kanishka' have been identified ;

(b) if so, the details and analysis thereof and the safety measures being adopted in the light of those findings ; and

(c) the steps being taken to arrange expeditious payment of the amount of insurance and make available other facilities to the family members of the deceased and the time by which final payments are likely to be made ?