

(b) The latest available estimate of foreign exchange earnings from tourism as released by R.B.I. relate to the year 1982-83 and is Rs. 1130.6 crores. The R.B.I. has not released figures for any subsequent year.

(c) The approach paper for the Seventh Five Year Plan has recommended the status of an industry to be given to tourism. The question of treating tourism-related services on par with export-oriented industry is under consideration.

**Direct Flights to U.S from Eastern Region
Particularly from Calcutta**

389. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no direct flight to U.S. from eastern region particularly from Calcutta :

(b) whether the people of eastern region have to go to Bombay or Delhi for West-bound journey ; and

(c) whether Government will consider introducing tri-weekly Air India service from Calcutta to New York via Paris, or Frankfurt and London through Bombay and Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Air India operates one direct flight No. AI-103 between Calcutta and New York.

(b) No, Sir. There is no need.

(c) Government have presently no plans to start a tri-weekly service from Calcutta to New York via Paris, or Frankfurt and London, through Bombay and Delhi, in near future.

**Closure of Panagarh Aerodrome in Burdwan
District of West Bengal**

390. SHRI PUENA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Civil Aviation Department has decided to close down the Panagarh Aerodrome in Burdwan District of West Bengal;

b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

(d) whether Government have received any letter dated 19-6-85 from a member of Parliament requesting the Government not to close down the said aerodrome;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Panagarh aerodrome belongs to the Indian Air Force and was being maintained by the Civil Aviation Department for use as an alternative to Calcutta Airport for Indian Airlines flights of smaller aircraft. The Civil Aviation Department has developed Ranchi aerodrome to meet the requirements of bigger aircraft. Indian Airlines have indicated their willingness to use this, aerodrome as an alternative to Calcutta aerodrome. In view of this, it has been decided to hand over Panagarh aerodrome back to Indian Air Force.

(c) Not yet received in the Ministry.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

**Purchase of another Boeing Jumbo Jet
by Air—India**

391. SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether keeping in view the crash of Air India Boeing Plane into Atlantic Ocean, Air India is planning to buy another Boeing Jumbo Jet, in order to bring normalcy in its service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : Yes, Sir. Air India is planning to acquire a Boeing 747 aircraft in replacement of "KANISHKA". Enquiries in this regard have been initiated.

**Winter Sports Institutes to Attract
Foreign Tourists**

392. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Winter Sports Insti-