

Disposal of Boeings

[Translation]

137. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI:

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

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to dispose of its Boeing fleet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the total number of Boeings proposed to be discarded;

(c) whether these Boeings have completed 30,000 landings;

(d) whether Government propose to purchase planes after disposal of these Boeings; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). Indian Airlines will continue to utilise B-737 aircraft on its net-work. However, four B-737 aircraft acquired during 1970-71 are proposed to be withdrawn from scheduled services during 1990-91 as they would be 20 years old at the time of withdrawal and the cost of operation of these aircraft will be much higher than that of the remaining aircraft.

(c) Yes, Sir. All these 4 Boeing-737 aircraft have completed 30,000 landings.

(d) and (e). Indian Airlines has already ordered the second batch of 12 Airbus A 320 aircraft which are scheduled to be delivered during 1990-92.

Price of Newsprint

138. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of indigenous newsprint were increased in the past few months;

(b) if so, the percentage by which it has been increased;

(c) whether this increase has helped in easy availability of the newsprint;

(d) if not, the facts thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(e) the total percentage of newsprint being produced by the Industrial units in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase in price effected by indigenous newsprint mills in May/June, 1989, ranges between 28% and 40% as compared to prices in January 1988, for 52 gsm newsprint.

(c) The increase in price is expected to improve the financial position of the indigenous mills and help them maintain a high level of capacity utilisation and sustained

supply of indigenous newsprint.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Out of the Five mills engaged in production of newsprint, two are in the Central Public Sector, two in the State Public Sector, and one in the private sector. The total production of 2.76 lakh tonnes of newsprint in the country in 1988-89 was contributed by the four Central/State public sector units.

Committee to Look into rise in prices of Newsprint

139. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI JAGANNATH
PATTNAIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level committee was constituted to look into the reasons of steep rise in the prices of newsprint and its scarcity and to suggest measures to ensure its availability to newspapers;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee and whether Government have received its report;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon and the results thereof; and

(d) if the report has not been received, the reasons for delay and when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.K. TEWARY): (a) to (c). No formal High-level Committee was constituted. However, based on the directives of the P.M. a Group of Secretaries comprising of Secretaries of Finance, Indus-

trial Development, Commerce and Information & Broadcasting was asked to look into the problems relating to newsprint Based on the outcome of the discussions of the Group, steps have been taken to provide additional foreign exchange required for the import of newsprint and to extend customs duty relief on glazed newsprint to the small and medium newspapers who are entitled to the same as per the Newsprint Allocation Policy for 1989-90.

(d) Does not arise.

Low Utilisation of Vayudoot Services

140. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of Vayudoot services which were started during the last five years and later dropped because of low utilisation;

(b) the period during which each such route was in operation;

(c) the actual utilisation rate of capacity on each route, while in operation; and

(d) the estimated loss to the Vayudoot for each route, while in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Documentary Film "Bharat ki Pukar"

141. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity has produced a documentary called "Bharat Ki Pukar";