

Part (c) : The following steps have been taken to improve the performance of Indian Airlines and to curb its expenses :—

- (1) Scheduling of aircraft matching with traffic demand and improvement in passenger overall load factor;
- (2) Better utilisation of the fleet;
- (3) Reduction in revenue expenditure;
- (4) Deferment/avoidance of expenditure of capital nature;
- (5) Control on additional recruitment of staff;
- (6) Close monitoring of one-time performance and fleet utilisation;
- (7) Improvement in passenger services.

Parts (d) and (e) : Yes, Sir. Commission is payable to travel agents on domestic ticket at the following rates :

On basic fare	— 5%
On fuel surcharge	—2.5%
On basic fare of tickets sold against Credit Cards	—2.5%

The total commission paid to Indian agents in 1990-91 was about Rs. 22.00 crores.

[*Translation*]

INTER-CITY TRAIN BETWEEN SURAT AND BARODA

963. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an inter-city train between Surat and Baroda in view of the density of passenger traffic;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether the Government also propose to convert Ahinsa Express (Poona-Ahmedabad) into a daily train to meet the demand for an inter-city train between Surat and Baroda ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

[*English*]

GANDHAR GAS BASED POWER PROJECT

964. **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government that the Gandhar Gas-based power project may be for peak load and not for base load purposes;

(b) if so, when this letter was received by the Union Government; and

(c) if not, the time by which this project is going to be cleared as a base load power project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) A proposal for Gandhar Gas based combined cycle power station (615 MW) has been received from Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) for base load operation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project cleared by the Central Electricity Authority from techno-economic angle in October, 1989, is under examination of the Planning Commission.