

Barrage Hydroelectric Project (125 MW) as techno-economically in order. However formal clearance can be considered after compliance of Section 29 of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 by the Farakka Barrage Project Authorities and after clearance is accorded by the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Concurrence of the beneficiary States and Damodar Valley Corporation to purchase power from the of project at the cost determined by the Government would also be necessary.

#### **Curtailement of Flights by International Airlines**

773. SHRISHANKERSINH VAGHELA:  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether certain international airlines have withdrawn or curtailed their services in India during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof;

(c) the extent to which the cargo and passenger traffic as also tourism prospects has been affected as a result thereof;

(d) the strategy being contemplated to cope with the traffic demand;

(e) whether in the case of India's international carrier, its share continues to fall;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken to rationalise routes to make maximum use of capital intensive equipment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). During last one year Sabena (Belgian Airline) and Czechoslovak Airlines have discontinued their operations to India; Delta Airlines has replaced PANAM, but with lesser capacity than that deployed earlier by PANAM. The aforesaid foreign airlines have discontinued/curtailed their services in exercise of their commercial judgment.

(c) and (d). No adverse impact is anticipated. Cargo traffic is carried largely by adhoc cargo flights operated under the Open Sky Policy. As far as passenger traffic is concerned, rights are being given to other Airlines, wherever necessary, to operate in order to cope with the traffic demand.

(e) to (g). Air India has retained its market share inspite of competition from other carriers.

#### **Fire in Kidwai Bhavan, New Delhi**

774. SHRI TARA CHAND  
KHANDELWAL:  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA  
MURTHY:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the special services of Delhi telephones have been affected following a fire in Kidwai Bhavan, New Delhi during the May, 1992;

(b) if so, the causes thereof and the total loss suffered thereby;

(c) whether the MTNL authorities have failed to set right the services despite more than a month have passed;

(d) whether the telephone lines from the

Janpath exchange have been also affected at large;

(e) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to set right the special services and other affected lines; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two committees have been set up to find the cause of fire and assess the loss suffered.

(c) No, Sir. The services have been restored partially.

(d) Yes, Sir. The exchange level 35 with 2200 working connections was affected partially, which has now been restored.

(e) 50 positions for 197 directory inquiry have been reassured and additional 50 positions are being added. For 199 Assistance Service, 20 positions have been restored and additional 10 positions are being added.

(f) Modern and more reliable fire protection systems are being installed. This is expected to provide better protection against fire accident.

#### **Fleet augmentation of Vayudoot**

775. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to augment the fleet of the Vayudoot;

(b) whether there is any proposal to replace the old aircraft also;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the phase of their replacements; and

(d) the amount involved and the type of new aircraft proposed to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). The question of augmentation or reduction of Vayudoot aircraft will be taken up after the future of Vayudoot is decided, after a performance evaluation is done.

[*Translation*]

#### **Modernisation of Power Station at Akola, Maharashtra**

776. SHRI PANDURANG PUNDLIK FUNDKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded its approval to the modernisation of Paras power station at Akola in Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(c) the details of the proposed modernisation work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal to modernise Paras Power Station units 1 & 2 at Akola in Maharashtra, with an estimated cost of Rs. 998 lakhs has been included under Renovation and Modernisation Programme (Phase-II) during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) The proposed modernisation work mainly covers the following works: