

(b) to (d). Agents are appointed depending upon commercial needs like future plans for capacity deployment potential of the place, potential of the agency and utilisation of India Airlines own sales outlets. The applicant agent should have suitable premises, staff and sufficient security arrangements. All applicants are required to be financially sound. In metropolitan cities, International Air Transport Association approved agents are appointed. In other places applicants having approval of IATA and those not having this approval are considered for appointment as agents of Indian Airlines, preference being given to applicants having IATA approval.

[*Translation*]

Indian Delegation to Foreign Countries for Promotion of Tourism

+2726. SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation is going abroad to attract more tourists to India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries likely to be visited by this delegation in the details of the activities proposed to be undertaken by them in order to attract foreign tourists to India; and

(c) the names of the countries where Government propose to organise Festival of India to promote tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Indian delegations comprising of travel trade and hostellers, visit abroad regularly for tourism promotion. During hold seminars, presentations and inter-act with their counterparts in that country for soliciting business.

(c) Festival of India are not organised only to promote tourism. At present, there is a proposal to hold a Festival of India in China. However, the year/time for holding the event is yet to be finalised.

[*English*]

USE of Optical Fibre Cables In Telecommunications

2727. SHRI RAM NARESHSINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trunk telecommunication links provided with optical fibre cables in the country; and

(b) the routes where laying of optical fibre cables is currently in progress?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Details indicated in Statement 'A'.

(b) Details indicated in Statement 'B'.

STATEMENT - A

Details of Trunk Telecommunications links provided with Optical Fibre Cables (as on 30.6.92)

1. New Delhi - Jaipur-Ajmer-Udaipur-Ahmedabad-Baroda-Surat-Bombay.
2. New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Hapur-Bulandshahr-Aligarh-Hathras-Agra.
3. Palghat-Trichur-Alwaye-Ernakulam-Kottayam-Trivandrum.
4. Agra-Ferozabad-Etawah-