

East and West Hill Bands of Kozhikode and Korattimala of Malappuram district.

(c) Does not arise.

Ratnagiri Airport

4149. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of Ratnagiri Airport has been completed; and

(b) if so, when the air-services are likely to be started therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The airport at Ratnagiri belongs to the State Government. The National Airports Authority has no plans to take up any work there.

(b) Vayudoot has no immediate plans to restore operations to Ratnagiri.

[*Translation*]

Change in Doordarshan Programmes

4150. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY:

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

(a) whether programme schedule of the Doordarshan is changed frequently;

(b) if so, the number of programmes changed during the last three months;

(c) the reasons for change for each programme; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check such changes in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). No, Sir. According to Doordarshan, only 5% of the programmes are changed at the last minute due to programme exigencies and unavoidable reasons.

(d) It is the endeavour of Doordarshan to adhere to the announced schedule of programmes.

[*English*]

Joint Venture of ABB & NTPC

4151. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI S.B. THORAT:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI LOKANATH CH-
OUDHURY:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint venture is proposed to be set up between the Swedish multinational electrical equipment manufacturers, ABB and the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protest has been re-

ceived against the proposed joint venture;
and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Area Brown Boveri of Switzerland and the National Thermal Power Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to confirm the intention of the parties concerned to set up a power plant through a new joint sector company in accordance with the notified policy of Government of India to encourage greater participation by private enterprises in the Electricity Sector to bring in additionally of resources from the private sector for capacity addition programme in electricity generation, supply and distribution fields.

(c) and (d). In an open letter to the Prime Minister, the National Confederation of Officers' Association (NCOA) have, inter-alia, stated that implementation of power projects through such joint ventures may lead to high costs and under-utilisation of indigenous capacity. The letter also questions other issues such as need for gas-based power projects as also the need for foreign/private investment in the power sector.

Government policy to encourage pri-

vate sector participation in power sector has been evolved to attract additionally of resources for power sector programmes through private sector investment to meet severe power shortages. Adequate mechanisms are available to limit project costs. The power capacity addition programme of the country is such that available indigenous capacity would be used.

International Airlines from major Airports

4152. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of international airlines operating through the airports of Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras respectively along with the names of the airlines and the frequency of service at each airport;

(b) the details of the international air traffic growth in these cities during each of the last five years, year-wise and city-wise;

(c) the reasons for low international air traffic growth at Calcutta airport; and

(d) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken to increase international air traffic at Calcutta airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The number of weekly services operated by international airlines at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras airports are given below:

S. No.	Name of airline	Bombay	Delhi	Calcutta	Madras
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Aeroflot	-	6	2	-