

Bank loan assistance amounting to US\$ 156.4 Million. The loan cancelled with effect from, 12.1991 on account of slow implementation of the project. These developments, no doubt, have affected the progress of the civil works of the project.

#### **Culcutta-Patna-Delhi Air Flight Sector**

4434. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inconvenience faced by air passengers on Calcutta-Patna-Delhi sector;

(b) if so, whether there is any likelihood of establishing an early morning or late evening air service on this sector;

(c) the number of days during April-

September 1992 when the flights touching Patna, flight-wise, arrived and departed in time; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) It is proposed to provide Patna with early morning/late evening connections since frequent foggy weather over and enroute Patna causes many disruptions in the schedule.

(c) Details of the total take-offs, delays and cancellations and on-time departure of Indian airlines flights ex-Patna during April, 1992 to September, 1992 are as follows:

<i>Flight No.</i>	<i>Total take -offs</i>	<i>Cance-llation</i>	<i>Delays</i>	<i>On-time Departure</i>
IC-199	51	3	16	32
IC-409	68	6	19	43
IC-410	76	1	27	48
IC-809	179	3	39	137
IC-810	179	6	41	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>392</b>

As is the practice world-wide, Indian Airlines maintains statistics of delays in departure and not of arrivals.

(d) Indian Airlines has taken steps to improve operational reliability by:

(1) close monitoring of on-time performance,

(2) rationalisation of schedule incorporating revised block time and increased ground time as cushion between flights,

(3) review of action taken for rectification of snags at regions as well as headquarters,