

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any guidelines issued by the RBI in this respect;

(f) if so, the details thereof and whether they have ever been amended; and

(g) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Permission to Companies has been accorded by the Reserve Bank of India for allotment of shares with repatriation benefits to Non-resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in terms of the Portfolio Investment Scheme which includes reservations out of public issues by Indian Companies.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has, till 21.3.1995, granted similar permission in the case of 72 companies.

(e) to (g). These approvals have hitherto been operated under the existing provisions of the Portfolio Investment Scheme for NRIs/OCBs and FIIs and the October 1993 guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India on reservations out of public issues.

Setting up of Finance Corporation

4691. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a finance corporation exclusively for the National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) if so, the suggestions received from the State Governments under NCR; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hub and Spoke Service in Air India

4692. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced Hub and Spoke service in international services of Air India to connect Ahmedabad to Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, the salient features of this service; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Hub and spoke operations of Air India with Indian Airline aircraft commenced in February 1994; the service on Bombay-Ahmedabad-Bombay route is operated on Saturdays and on Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi route on Wednesdays. These flights function as extensions of International flights of Air India and offer direct connections from/to Air India's International flights by way of seamless transfer, as customs and immigration formalities are completed at Ahmedabad.

[English]

ILO Recommendations

4693. SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation in its World Employment Report, 1995, has urged for increased direct State support for small farmers and labour-intensive public work projects to provide income supplement and create productive proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has recently released a report titled "World Employment 1995". The Government has taken note of the observations in the report which has *inter-alia* expressed apprehension over the reduction in public credit and extension services which are likely to weaken the productive capacity of small farmers, and complimented the successful implementation of the employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra, aimed at reducing poverty, inequality and building productive assets.

Economic reforms over the last three and half years have improved the relative profitability of agriculture. Government's resolve to improve the economic viability of small farmers, alleviate poverty and enhance employment generation is reflected in higher public sector outlays for agriculture and allied activities, substantial increase in farm credit and stepping up Central Plan allocations for anti-poverty and employment generation programmes.

Ground Handling Facilities

4694. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise ground handling facilities at airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b). An Inter-Ministerial group has *inter-alia* recommended that