

- (iii) fixation of age of retirement of the officers of ENBI who were recruited as officer or as award staff, between 19.7.1969 and 14.4.1980 at 58 years;
- (iv) calculation of gratuity in respect of workmen staff on basic pay instead of basic pay plus D.A.;
- (v) reduction in perks/certain other facilities.

These issues are also among the subject matter of the petitions filed by the ENBI employees before several Courts of Law. While some Courts have since disposed off the petitions in favour of the PNB and against the petitioners, the petitions in some other Courts are still pending. The matter is, therefore, presently subjudice.

#### Landing Slots

5453. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to get tough over landing slots in seven tourist airports in Europe, East Asia and the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have decided to stop granting any new slots in Bombay and Delhi to officially designated airlines of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Air India have been facing difficulties in obtaining commercially viable slots at some of the busy airports abroad. It has, therefore, been decided that availability of viable slots on reciprocal basis will be an important factor for grant of traffic rights keeping in mind also the commercial strategic and national interests.

#### Promotion of Domestic Tourism

5454. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

(a) whether adequate attention is paid for promoting domestic tourism;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the air taxi services introduced for promoting tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Promotion of domestic tourism is a continuous activity. Department of Tourism in the Central Government has inter-alia taken steps to suggest accommodation for domestic tourists by promoting budget accommodation,

camping sites, paying guest accommodation, affordable accommodation at pilgrim centres. Promotion of handicrafts and folk centre has been promoted through financial assistance to craft melas, fairs and festivals.

(c) The scheme of air taxi operation which was introduced by the Government in 1986 has now been converted into regular scheduled service by repealing the Air Corporation Act and allowing these Airlines to print regular schedules for operation within India.

#### Customs Duty Dues

5455. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies, firms and others against whom customs dues and arrears to the tune of Rs. ten crore and above were outstanding as on April 1, 1994 and March 31, 1995, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for such heavy accumulation of dues and arrears; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recover the dues and arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Hongkong Trade Council

5456. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :  
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hongkong Trade Council has decided to open its offices in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these offices are likely start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). During the recent visit of a high level delegation from the Hongkong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) led by its Chairman, it was indicated that HKTDC would soon open its Offices in Delhi and Bombay. No precise time frame for setting up these offices has been indicated by them. Government of India welcomes the decision.

#### White Paper on Foreign Loan

5457. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions for issuance of a detailed "White Paper" on foreign loans borrowed from I.M.F. World Bank, etc., totalling about rupees three lakhs of crores by close of the year 1994;