

concerns about the efforts at seeking to establish linkage between international trade and enforcement of labour standards through the imposition of the social clause. The Conference resolved to undertake programmes for horizontal cooperation among the developing countries in the various socio-economic spheres having implications for labour and employment. The Conference also felt that in formulating the adjustment measures, the social dimensions of structural adjustment should be carefully analysed keeping in view the particular circumstances of each country and the social partners and the results of their application, closely monitored to minimise human distress.

(d) The estimated figure of working children in India, as per the 1981 census, was 13.6 million. The policy of the Government is to ban employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and hazardous employment and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments at this stage. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 was meant to achieve this objective. Recently, the Ministry of Labour launched a major programme to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations and processes by the year 2002 A.D. Sufficient funds have been committed to implement this programme.

Air Accidents

225 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) the total number of aircrafts belonging to the Indian Airlines, Vayudoot, Air India and other Airline companies that met with accidents in the country and abroad during January 1, 1996 to date,

(b) the extent of loss of lives suffered and other losses incurred therein in each mishap,

(c) the compensation provided to dependents of each of the deceased persons,

(d) the causes for the said mishaps, and

(e) the concrete measures taken to check such air mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There is only one air accident during the said period, involving an aircraft of Archana Airways operating flight from Delhi to Kanpur on 18.5.96.

(b) No life was lost. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. A portion of the airport boundary wall was also broken.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The accident is under investigation by DGCA.

(e) Measures such as implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs), safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/meetings, inspection of aerodromes etc. are continuously taken to enhance the level of air safety.

Vijayawada Airport

226 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen the runway and for creation of other infrastructural facilities at Vijayawada airport,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose,

(d) the time by which the said airport is likely to be made operational,

(e) whether there is also a proposal for starting Boeing, Avro and Dornier aircrafts connecting major cities in the country, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has plans to undertake following works at Vijayawada airport :

(i) Strengthening of existing runway to operate B-737 aircraft.

(ii) Construction of a new Terminal Building to cater to the needs of 75 arriving and 75 passengers.

(iii) Providing Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR) navigational aid.

(c) A sum of Rs. 3 crores has been allocated in the year 1996-97.

(d) The airport is likely to be made operational by December, 1999.

(e) and (f) The airport at present is not suitable for B-737 aircraft operation. However, airlines are free to operate smaller aircraft to/from Vijayawada airport.

District Rehabilitation Scheme for Rural Disabled

227 SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has launched the District Rehabilitation Scheme in early