

components, namely, (a) old age pension, (b) lump-sum survivor benefits to rural households, and (c) provision of sustenance for pre-natal and post-natal maternity care to women belonging to poor households for the first two births

(2) To work out the eligibility criteria for persons who would benefit from these three schemes and the manner in which these criteria will be implemented and administered at the field level, especially in Panchayats

(3) To work out the details relating to the sharing of the costs between the Centre and the States, keeping in view the objectives of the scheme

(4) To work out the annual expenditure of the scheme, especially during the commencement year 1995-96 and the appropriate provisions required for its implementation

(5) To work out the modalities for ensuring the flow of funds and institutional arrangements through Panchayats for identification and prompt disbursement of these benefits, including methods of verification of claims

(6) To work out the linkages with health care and family welfare measures to those benefiting from the provision of assistance for pre-natal and post-natal maternity care

(7) To work out the detailed framework for ensuring that this scheme is properly monitored and made accountable to State Legislatures and the Parliament for distribution of benefits and their appropriate utilisation

(8) To work out the salient features of the Group Life Insurance Scheme of the LIC which will be implemented by Panchayats in rural areas in consultation with LIC

(9) Any other matter of relevance and importance connected with these

Transportation of Haj Pilgrims

6340 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether Air India has entered into an agreement with any other airlines for transportation of Haj Pilgrims,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reasons for engaging other airlines for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) Air India has wetleased B747 aircraft from M/s Tower Air, to carry about 30,864 Haj pilgrims over 70 flights in each direction between four points in India viz Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras and Jeddah at a contracted price of US \$ 14,660 400 (or approximately Rs 42 18 crores)

which covers aircraft hire, crew, all maintenance support, Hull/third party insurance and fuel Other cost of operations are to be borne by Air India

(c) Deployment of Air India aircraft, for Haj movement, would have involved large scale disruption of scheduled Air India flights, causing inconvenience to thousands of passengers

Kuwait-Trivandrum Air Link

6341 PROF P J KURIEN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received representations from Indians in Gulf countries against the recent change in routes effected by Air India on its direct flight on Kuwait/Trivandrum sector

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action taken by the Govt in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) A representation has been received against routing the Trivandrum/Kuwait flight via Goa

(c) When the flight was operated direct on Trivandrum/Kuwait route, the load was low From 26 03 95, Air India has re-routed the Trivandrum/Kuwait flight via Goa to improve the seat factor and provide a direct service to people of Goa

MMTC

6342 SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC) have diversified its activities,

(b) if so, since when and the details of the diversification programme launched by MMTC so far,

(c) the diversification activities proposed to be launched by MMTC during the remaining period of the Eighth Plan, and

(d) the target fixed under each of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (c) Consequent to the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items which were earlier canalised through MMTC, MMTC has initiated action for diversification of its activities into new areas such as Agro Products, Marine Products, Textiles, Leather, Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals These activities would continue for the remaining period of the Eighth Plan and beyond

(d) No specific targets have been fixed by MMTC