

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to recruit the required number of pilots/co-pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has a shortage of 83 Commanders 19 for A-300 aircraft, 42 for A-320 aircraft and 22 for B-737 aircraft. Air India has a shortage of 21 Commanders and 21 co-pilots for Boeing 747-200/300 type of aircraft.

(d) To make up the shortfall, both the airlines have geared up the process of recruitment and training of co-pilots/pilots.

Promotion of Tea

842. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tea produced during each of the last three years;

(b) the performance of different tea producing States in the production of export quality tea during the above period;

(c) the countries to which tea is being exported at present;

(d) whether there is any decline in the production of tea during the current financial year State-wise;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Statement indicating State-wise production of tea during 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 (April-June) is annexed. It is not possible to accurately quantify the share of tea exported from different states in overall exports as in most cases tea is exported in blended form

(c) Indian tea is exported at present to more than 80 countries of the world. Major importers of Indian tea are Russia & CIS countries, U.K., Germany, Poland, U.A.E., Iran, A.R.E., Japan & Saudi Arabia

(d) and (e) There is a decline in production of tea in all the tea producing states of North India during the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period during the previous year. This is mainly due to adverse agro-climatic conditions in these tea producing areas.

(f) In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective Plan to increase production of tea which includes short-term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices;

medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling; and long term measures such as R & D activity, replanting and extension planting.

STATEMENT

State-wise production of Tea during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-June)

State	Production (in Thousand kgs.)			
	1993-94 (April-March)	1994-95 (April-March)	1995-96 (April-June)	1994-95 (April-June)
Assam	395,815	403,581	99,395	119,625
West Bengal	160,176	156,563	38,777	48,971
Others	7,585	8,033	1,010	1,087
Total North India	563,576	568,177	139,182	169,683
Tamil Nadu	115,449	104,408	33,819	32,787
Kerala	70,503	60,883	20,287	18,960
Karnataka	4,009	3,920	1,361	1,226
Total South India	189,961	169,211	55,467	52,973
All India	753,537	737,388	194,649	222,656

Mysore Airport

843. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Mysore Airport has become an unutilised airport;

(b) if so, since when the Mysore airport was operating flights and since when it was discontinued

(c) the reasons for the discontinuation of flights from this airport;

(d) the amount spent for maintenance of the above airport during the last three years, yearwise.

(e) whether the Government propose to commercially utilise the above airport, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Air services to/from Mysore airport were being operated from April, 1985 till September, 1989. Due to operational and commercial reasons, Vayudoot had to discontinue its services from September, 1989.

(d) Airports Authority of India have not incurred any expenditure during the last three years on the maintenance of this airport.

(e) and (f) Commercial utilisation of the airport depends upon the airlines commencing operations from Mysore.

Development of Civil Aviation in U.P.

844. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) the details of the projects approved for the development of Civil Aviation in Uttar Pradesh during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the project-wise amount provided to the State by the Union Government for this purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan, till date; and

(c) the details of development works undertaken/being undertaken in the State during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India have undertaken the following works of various airports in Uttar Pradesh during the 8th Five Year Plan :

- Installation of various equipment for Aeronautical Communication Services at Agra, Allahabad, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- Ground and safety services at Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- Expansion and development of Terminal Building at Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi.
- Widening of taxi track at Agra.
- New Apron & taxi track and resurfacing of runway at Lucknow.

No amount has been allocated by the Union Government to the State Government for development of civil aviation in Uttar Pradesh during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Rice Deal in STC

845. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in 'Financial Express' dated July 19, 1995 under the caption "STC rice deal commission payment exceeds profit";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a part of its efforts at diversification, particularly in the non-canalised sector, STC finalised its first over agreement for export of rice to Government of Bangladesh. The agency commission payable was well within the ceiling prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India. The subsequent increase in the freight charges, discharge port expenses and demurrage, etc. has resulted in a reduction of STC's projected margin. The final position about the profitability of the transaction will be known only after all details of expenses are received and settled.

Privatisation of Airports

846. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE . Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to privatise some of the airports; and

(b) if so, the airports identified for privatisation. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Settlement of Insurance Claims

847. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4624 on May 5, 1995 regarding insurance Policies and state :

(a) whether the information with regard to the Insurance Policies revived and claims paid thereon by the New India Assurance Co. Ltd. at Delhi during the financial year 1994-95 has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :