

Air India Woos Media with Passes.

1046. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "Air India woos Media with passes", appearing in the 'Times of India' on November 2, 1995; and

(b) If so, the details of persons that have received these passes with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Issue of passes by airlines for purpose of public relations is a normal industry practice. Air India has been issuing such passes for the last 30 years or more and no new system has recently been evolved. Details of passes issued by Air India during the last one year are being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

Air Service in Imphal

1047. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the grievances being forced by the people of North East region particularly of Manipur by not providing air flight service to reach Imphal from Delhi in one day ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to reduce their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received for reintroducing service between Delhi and Imphal. Due to shortage of operating crew, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to provide direct air service between Delhi and Imphal. However, private operators are being encouraged to operate additional services to the North-East.

Deep Sea Fishing

1048. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present role of SCICI in shipping and deep-sea fishing sector;

(b) whether SCICI has completely stiffened the terms of loan for deep sea fishing ; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) SCICI has reported that while shipping and fishing industry remain the efocus areas of its operations, the company has diversified its lending activities to all sectors of the economy with a view to diversify its risks and build up a healthy port-folio.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Agitation by Aircrafts Engineers

1049. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Air India's boeing currently grounded and since when alongwith the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether an undeclared agitation by aircraft maintenance engineers are going on for the last few months ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to wipe out the depletion in aircraft availability?