

projects at various airports. Revenue earnings and expenditure of both the divisions of Airports Authority of India are being monitored regularly.

[Translation]

#### **Closure of Loss-Incurring Banks**

3108. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to close down those branches of the nationalised banks which are running in losses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the norms prescribed for closing down such bank branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not formulated any scheme as such for closure of loss making branches of nationalised banks. However, in connection with the release of additional capital to the nationalised banks by Government, these banks have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding performance obligations and commitments wherein some of these banks have agreed to merge/close a few of their loss making branches. The banks have also been permitted to convert their unviable rural branches into satellite offices. At rural centres served by two commercial banks branches (excluding RRBs), the decision for closure of one of the branches could also be taken by the concerned banks by mutual consultation.

#### **Emigration of Labour**

3109. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of skilled and semi-skilled labourers going abroad has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps have been taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) the foreign exchange earnings by these labourers repatriated every year; and

(e) the loss of foreign exchange suffered due to reduction in Indian labour abroad?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Emigration procedure has been further simplified by bringing the following six additional categories of workers under 'Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR)' category w.e.f. 1.10.91 :

- (i) Supervisors (all professions);
- (ii) Skilled workers (all professions);
- (iii) Semi-skilled workers (all professions);
- (iv) Light/Medium/Heavy Vehicle Drivers;
- (v) Clerical workers of all categories including stenographers, store-keepers, time-keepers, typists etc.;
- (vi) Cooks excluding those in domestic employment;

This is intended to promote emigration of Indian workers abroad.

(d) Information regarding remittances received from such emigrants is not maintained.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Wage Board Report for Journalists**

3110. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the wage Board Report for Journalists;

(b) if so, the details of the main recommendations made therein;

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted and implemented; and

(d) if not, the time by which the above report is likely to be submitted by the above Board?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). The Government have received only a report on interim rates of wages from the Manisana Singh Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-journalist Newspaper and News-Agency Employees constituted on 2.9.1994. The Wage Boards have recommended 15% increase of the basic wage to the journalists and non-journalist newspaper and news-agency employees. No final decision has been taken by the Government on the issue of grant of interim rates of wages.

(d) The Government, while constituting the Wage Boards, have not fixed any time frame for the submission of the final report of the Wage Boards.

#### **Runway of Vijayawada Airport**

3111. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the Vijayawada airport runway;

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter;