

(c) whether there is any proposal to shift the Ganavaram Airport at Vijayawada;

(d) if so, the location identified in this regard and by when it is likely to be shifted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India has formulated a plan for widening the runway at Vijayawada airport; this is yet to be approved.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Review of Pawan Hans working

3112. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ever reviewed the working of Pawan Hans Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow private sector companies to operate helicopter service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The working of Pawan Hans Limited is reviewed from time to time. The salient features of the last review are :

(i) Optimal utilisation of the existing fleet

(ii) Need to expand its fleet to retain market share

(iii) Safe flying record for past five years

(iv) Consistent profit earnings

(c) and (d). Eight private operators are already operating helicopter services in India. In addition, Six operators have also been given no Objection Certificate for starting helicopter service.

[English]

Liaison Officer in ITPO

3113. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Liaison Officer in India Trade Promotion Organisation belongs to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes as on date;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is no SC/ST Cell in ITPO;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) how many officers/employees are posted in this Cell;

(f) the number of Liaison Officers working since 1977; and

(g) the action taken by the Government for safeguarding the interest of SC/ST Reservation Policy?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (g). There is no specific SC/ST Cell in ITPO. However, to look after the grievances of employees in ITPO, an Employees' Grievance Cell under the Chairmanship of General Manager (Admn.) alongwith two officers of the rank of Joint Manager and one other officer, as its members is working. The Cell is asked to give particular attention to grievances of SC/ST/OBC employees. Presently the Member Secretary of the Cell is also the Liaison Officer for SC/ST/OBCs in ITPO.

Since 1977, the Liaison Officers have been posted in ITPO for safeguarding the interests of SC/STs. The Government directives on SC/ST reservation as applicable for Public Sector Undertakings are being followed by ITPO.

Foreign Airlines

3114. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to persue different foreign airlines to operate their flights from Calcutta.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). As a matter of policy, Government has been offering Calcutta as a point of call for foreign airlines on liberal terms in bilateral agreements. The measures taken to promote air services from Calcutta are as follows :

(i) Some of the foreign airlines like British Airways, Balkan Bulgarian Airlines, KLM, Lufthansa, Myanmar Airways International and Tarom have been allowed the facility to combine their flights to Calcutta with other prime gateway points to make the operations economical.

(ii) Access to Bombay and Delhi has been permitted for certain airlines subject to their simultaneously operating to Calcutta.

(iii) In certain cases, there is a provision to reduce the capacity entitlement if the foreign airline does not operate to Calcutta.

(iv) Liberal fifth freedom rights have been granted to from Calcutta to encourage operations from Calcutta.

The actual operations of foreign airlines, however, depend upon the Commercial judgement of the carriers concerned.

Pawan Hans

3115. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the on-going negotiations between US-based Bell Helicopter and Public sector Pawan Hans for a joint venture to maintain helicopters, spares management and undertaking other related activities;

(b) how far this tie-up help the Pawan Hans to improve its operational results; and

(c) the salient features of the proposed joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There is no proposal for a joint venture between US-based Bell Helicopters and Pawan Hans Ltd.

(b) and (C). Do not arise.

Diversion of Foreign Flights

3116. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to divert some flights of foreign airlines from Delhi and Bombay to Calcutta to reduce pressure on these two airports;

(b) whether the Government also propose to operate more Air India's flights from Calcutta to different countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Due to the geographic location and other factors, Calcutta cannot be offered as an alternate airport to Delhi/Bombay. However, as a matter of policy, Government has been offering various incentives to promote Calcutta as a point of call for foreign carriers. The actual operations are left to the commercial judgement of the airlines. At present, nine foreign carriers are operating to/from Calcutta.

(b) and (c). Air India is operating 4 flights a week to/from Calcutta offering convenient connections over Bombay to various countries on Air India's network. Indian Airlines have recently commenced a once weekly new International Service on Calcutta-Yagon-Calcutta sector. Operations of more flights by national carriers will depend upon factors like traffic demand and availability of aircraft.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Development of Tourism

3117. SHRI RAJ NARAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance given to each State by the Union Government for the development of tourism during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the details of financial assistance given to each State for the development of tourism in Private sector during 1995-96 so far;

(c) whether the Government have given any suggestion issued guidelines to the State Governments for giving loans to the private sector to encourage tourism therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Central financial assistance is provided on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Govts. and Union Territories. The amounts sanctioned and released during 1993-94 and 1994-95 to various State/UT Governments are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d). To encourage investment in Tourism by Private Sector the Government provides incentives such as Interest Subsidy to One, Two and Three Starred Hotels and heritage Hotels (located outside 4 Metro politan Cities) on the loans granted by TFCI, IFCI and SFCI at the rate of 3% to 5%. In addition, the Government also provides concessions under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

STATEMENT

Central Financial Assistance sanctioned and released to the State Governments/Union Territories During 1993-94 and 1994-95.

		(Rs. in lakhs)			
S. No.	States	1993-94		1994-95	
		Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.28	48.15	171.99	73.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.40	23.50	-	-
3.	Assam	78.11	28.83	52.99	27.00
4.	Bihar	9.75	4.95	10.10	24.00
5.	Goa	78.82	37.83	76.74	32.65
6.	Gujarat	65.76	35.48	14.50	7.50
7.	Haryana	226.76	44.70	173.98	45.00