

Air link with Kandla Airport

6457. DR. MAHIPATRAY M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kandla Port is delinked by air-service since last war with Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking to re-start it; and

(c) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Air service to Kandla was discontinued at the end of 1973.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The present composition of jet and turbo-prop aircraft fleet being fully committed, Indian Airlines has no plans to start an air service to Kandla. Moreover, due to close proximity of Bhuj which is connected to Bombay via Jamnagar by a daily Boeing 737 service, it is felt that Bhuj can serve as the aerial gateway point for people travelling to and from Kandla. However, air service to Kandla may be considered in the context of the Third Level Air Services, a proposal on which is under consideration of the Government.

Writing off of Loans given to Agriculturists in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

6458. SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES:

PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE:

SHRI RAM KRISHNA MORE:

SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Reserve Bank of India has expressed its unwillingness to endorse the decision of the Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu Governments to write off the loans given to agriculturists;

(b) if so, what are the implications of this decision; and

(c) the attitude of the Government of India to this situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has expressed reservations regarding the decisions of the Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu Governments to write off the cooperative, short-term loans given to agriculturists. The matter has been under discussion between the Reserve Bank and the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) The decision of the Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu Governments has far-reaching implications of all-India character, such as their impact on the general atmosphere regarding repayment of loans by farmers to the financing institutions, the health of the financing institutions and their ability to recycle money lent by them to the farming sector and the ability of the State Governments to provide such reliefs from their own resources.

(c) The Government of India and the Reserve Bank are fully conscious of the need for debt relief to farmers affected by adverse weather conditions, especially recurrent droughts. The Government of India would like to carefully consider the wider implications of the decisions of the Governments of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Payment of Bonus/Ex-Gratia to Employees of Air India and Indian Airlines

6459. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL:

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

(a) whether Government have paid bonus or made ex-gratia payment to any category of employees of Air India and/or Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, when and how much and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intend to give bonus or ex-gratia payment or any mode of payment to such of the employees in 1980, 1981 or in the near future;