

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM  
SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) *It is estimated that there are about 40 million tonnes of tailing sands in the Kolar Gold Fields (Karnataka). Sampling done in dumps of 22 million tonnes have indicated presence of gold varying from 0.4 grams to 0.8 grams per tonne.*

(c) Bharat Gold Mines Limited is already extracting gold from tailings by a semi-commercial pilot plant through heap-leaching process.

(d) Bharat Gold Mines Limited have been able to recover around 54% of the available gold through the heap leaching process from the tailing sands.

#### Foreign Investment for tourism

\*656. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:  
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI  
SINGH:

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

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow them to avail foreign investment in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the states which have given tourism the status of industry; and

(d) whether other States have been asked to take similar action.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). On the recommendations of the Central Government, 14 States and 3 Union Territories have accorded industry status to tourism. The State Tourism Ministers Conference held in New Delhi in December, 1991 adopted a recommendatory resolution requesting the remaining State Governments to declare Tourism as an Industry.

#### Purchase of Boeing 777

\*657. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Economic Times dated March 26, 1992 regarding purchase of Boeing 777 aircraft;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Indian Airlines and the Air India by including the Boeing 777 in their fleet renewal programme over the next decade; and

(d) the estimated expenditure involved in the proposed deal in terms of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Air India and Indian Airlines have presently no immediate plans to acquire any aircraft, other than those for which definitive purchase agreements have already been signed. Boeing 777 is a medium capacity and medium to long range aircraft and would be evaluated along with other similar aircraft in accordance with the respective fleet renewal plans.