

Improvement of Civil Aviation Network

1847. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes proposed to be introduced for the development of Civil Aviation network in Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(b) the amount earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Airports Authority of India has allocated Rs. 17.49 crores in Budget Estimates of 1996-97 for upgradation of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur airports and construction of a new airport at Ajmer in Rajasthan and Rs. 4.12 crores for upgradation of Bhubaneswar airport in Orissa.

Ballot System

1848. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced the ballot system for democratisation of the trade unions;

(b) if so, its present status; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to complete the ballot system in all sectors of Indian Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Government has been discussing the proposal for introducing Secret Ballot for verification of the members of Trade Unions in consultation with various Central Trade Unions, Employees Organisations and State Governments. It is proposed to place the issue before the Standing Labour Committee and the Indian Labour Conference at their next meeting to evolve a consensus approval.

Press Council of India

1849. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Press Council of India has recently instructed journalists not to record anyone's conversation of talks over telephone without prior permission of the party concerned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Press Council has also formulated a code of ethics.

(d) if so, the main guidelines updated by the Press Council of India; and

(e) the extent to which these guidelines are adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The PCI in its meeting held at Bangalore on the 28th June, 1996 has updated the compilation of the guidelines principles developed since 1996. A list of subjects on which the guidelines have been updated by the council is given in the attached statement.

(e) The guidelines and other pronouncements of the Council do not carry any penal sanctions but the Press Council can issue warning, admonition and censure. These are, however, morally binding and the Press has, by the large, adhered to and abided by the advice of the Press Council.

STATEMENT

The main guidelines updated by the Council are on the following subjects :

1. Accuracy and fairness;
2. Pre-publication verification;
3. Caution against defamatory writings;
4. Parameters of the right of the Press to comment on the acts and conduct of public official;
5. Right to privacy;
6. Recording interviews and phone conversation;
7. Conjecture, comment and fact;
8. Newspapers to eschew suggestive guilt;
9. Corrections;
10. Right of Reply;
11. Letters to Editor;
12. Obscenity and vulgarity to be eschewed;
13. Violence not to be glorified;
14. Glorification/encouragement of social evils to be eschewed;
15. Covering communal disputes/clashes;
16. Headings not to be sensational/provocative and must justify the matter printed under them;
17. Caste community or religion references;
18. Reporting on natural calamities;
19. Paramount national interest;

20. Newspapers may expose misuse of diplomatic immunity;
21. Investigative Journalism, its norms and parameters;
22. Confidence to be respected;
23. Caution in criticising judicial acts;
24. Newspapers to avoid cross-commercialism;
25. Plagiarism;
26. Unauthorised lifting of news;
27. Non-return of unsolicited material;
28. Advertisements;
29. Communal writings;
30. Financial news reporting;
31. Election coverage - pre/exist poll surveys;
32. Coverage of militant handouts;
33. AIDS related reporting.

Expansion of MTNL

1850. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to undertake the expansion programme of MTNL during 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is planned to provide 5.0 lakhs New Telephone connections in MTNL during 96-97 (2.5 lakhs each in Delhi and Bombay) subject to generation of adequate registered demand for new telephones.

Steel Plant in Private Sector

1851. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for the issuance of letter of intent for setting up of steel plants in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of private companies approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Assam for issuance of letter of intent for setting up of steel plants in the private sector. Approval of the

Union Government for Industrial Licence is required only if the project is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs according to the 1991 Census and is also not located within the areas designated as 'industrial area' by State Government before July 25, 1991.

Promotion of Tourist in Orissa

1852. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TOURIST be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage the tourism in Orissa.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce air fares to encourage tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Promotion of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides Central Financial Assistance for the development of tourism to the State/Union Territory Governments on the receipt of specific projects, based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds.

During the first four years of the VIII Plan, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 449.06 lakhs to Orissa for the promotion/development of tourism. In consultation with the State Government of Orissa, 3 projects have been identified for central financial assistance in 1996-97.

(c) and (d). The Government has no proposal to reduce air fares of the Indian Airlines.

Expansion of Khetri Smelter and Refinery Projects

1853. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Khetri Smelter and refinery project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited has formulated any plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e). Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has formulated a plan for expansion of Khetri Smelter and