

(c) if so, what action the Government have initiated to recover the tax collected by the private airline operators from the passengers in time ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Some of private airline operators have defaulted in paying the inland air travel tax. Aircraft of some of these airline were recently detained.

(c) Stringent action such as imposition of penalty, detention of aircraft etc. is taken under the provision of the Inland Air Travel Tax Rules, 1989.

#### **Upgradation of ITDC Hotels**

1130. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade most of the ITDC Hotels, especially those in Delhi, to the International level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). ITDC has drawn a comprehensive programme for upgradation/renovation of 27 of its hotels including seven hotels in New Delhi during 1996-97 at a cost of Rs. 17.74 crores.

#### **Foreign Investment**

1131. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to permit foreign equity investment in Indian Aviation Companies upto 40% ; and

(b) if so, the details of aviation companies incorporated in india indicating the equity components of each?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) According to extent guidelines, 40% foreign equity participation is permitted in private airline companies subject to approval of the Government on a case to case basis.

(b) The details are as follows :-

(i) M/s. Jet Airways India Ltd. (a scheduled private operator) : 40% foreign equity (20% of M/s Gulf Air and 20% of M/s. Kuwait Airways).

(ii) Bengal Air Services Ltd. (NOC holder for operating scheduled service) : 5% of M/s. Necon Air Ltd., Nepal.

#### **Disparity Committee**

1132. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a disparity committee was appointed to look into the disparity between employees of the Employees Provident Fund and Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the action taken by the Government to implement the report; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the delay in submission of the report ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Export of Leather Goods to Russia**

1133. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Customs authorities have detected a number of export houses in Delhi for misrepresentation of facts in claiming excessive export duty drawback incentives defrauding in the process the Government exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such bogus exports of leather goods to Russia and exporters that have come to light and the number of consignments that had been impounded during the last three years;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against them; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to curb such activities in future ?