

(e) the details of the other recommendation of the Council ;

(f) whether government have considered them ; and

(g) if so, the recommendation accepted for implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Council has recommended the abolition of quota restriction on the national permits for public carriers. It is held that, on assessment of all relevant factors, such a step is not likely to have any appreciable impact on the high-rated traffic at present carried by Railways. Cost effectiveness for rail and road transport would remain the same as at present. Abolition of quota system would only check the malpractices.

(e) The other recommendations made by the TDC. include levy of composite fee in lieu of taxes payable by the permit holder at the rate of Rs. 2000/- for each plying State and Rs. 1000/- for U.T. per year, besides Home State Taxes, an increase by 50% in the number of all India Tourist Permits for Taxi-cabs over the existing levels ; constitution of a small Committee of Transport Minister of some States to go into various aspects of the all-India Tourist Permits for buses ; adoption of guidelines for allocation of all India Tourist Permits on the basis of population and highway kilometerage.

(f) and (g) Necessary steps for processing and further implementation have been initiated.

Open University and Model Schools

742. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) when the open university will start functioning and where ; and

(b) how many model schools will be started by 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The Indira Gandhi

National Open University has started functioning in Delhi. However, it will take some time before the university can initiate its academic programmes for which considerable preparatory work has to be done.

(b) During 1985-86, 2 experimental model schools are proposed to be opened, subject to infrastructural arrangements being completed in time.

Maintenance of National Monuments

743. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any provision in the Seventh Plan for the safety, upkeep and maintenance of the national monuments ; and

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Provision of Rs. 17.75 crores has been made under Plan for this purpose.

Agreement to Allow Emirate Airlines to Operate on Dubai-Delhi-Bombay Route

744. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed an agreement with any Gulf country to allow Emirates Airlines to operate on the Dubai-Delhi-Bombay route ;

(b) if so, whether the operation of an additional airline on this route would effect Air India's Gulf traffic ; and

(c) if so, how does Air India hope to break even in the current financial year in which its profits are expected to fall very sharply ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have signed an agreement with the Government of United