

(e) and (f). Bulk samples collected from a shaft sunk at Kapurdih have been sent to the Central Fuel Research Institute for testing the lignite for utilisation for power generation using conventional as well as non-conventional methods like fluidised bed combustion.

[English]

### **Appointment of General Sales Agents**

3018. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some General Sales Agents (G.S.A.) have been awarded licences to operate their business from cities where on line stations have their booking offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received representations from the All India Federation of Foreign Airlines employees against the G.S.A. system;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon; and

(e) whether it is proposed to ban the appointment of General Sales Agents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b). Under IATA regulations, an airline may appoint G.S.As in cities where it has on-line stations for sale of passenger/cargo air transportation.

(c) and (b). No representation has been received from the All India Federation of Foreign Airlines employees. However, the

Employees Association of more than one airline had raised an objection in the Labour Court and sought interim relief preventing the airline from appointing GSAs. The airlines appealed to the Supreme Court which disposed of the interim relief plea by accepting the airlines undertaking not to terminate or alter the service conditions of any of its employees.

(e) No. Sir.

[Translation]

### **Offer from East and West Germany for mining of Brown Coal In Rajasthan**

3019. DR. CHANDRA SKEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether East and West Germany have offered to help in mining of brown coal and power generation programme in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government have since considered this offer; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard and if not, when a final decision is expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Budgetary offers have been received from a number of countries including East Germany and West Germany for the development of a lignite mine (1.7 million tonnes per annum capacity)/construction of a pit-head power station (2x120 MW) at Barsinghsar in Bikaner District of Rajasthan. A decision in this regard will be taken after completion of technical and commercial evaluation of the budgetary offers and approval of the project.