

Time-Bound Programme to improve efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings

4472. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering a proposal to evolve a time-bound programme to improve the efficiency of public sector undertakings;

(b) whether the programme has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). It is the constant endeavour of Government to improve the efficiency of Public Sector Enterprises. While no such time-bound programme has been drawn up, various steps are taken from time to time to achieve this objective. These include modernisation and rationalisation of existing production facilities, provision of balancing equipments, diversification, increased export efforts where there is slackness of demand, improving industrial relations and motivation etc. The working of the Public Enterprises is monitored through a Management Information System which would indicate problems and bottle-necks for initiating timely remedial action. There has been an improvement in the utilisation of capacities over the years. There is scope for further progress in this direction.

Expenditure Incurred on Entertainment by International Airports Authority

4473. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much expenditure has been incurred on entertainment by the various officers of International Airports Authority of India during last three years;

(b) whether these expenses were found to be justified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Airbuses being Leased out by Indian Airlines to Air India

4474. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines bought airbuses to meet the increasing traffic load of domestic passengers;

(b) whether these Airbuses are being given to Air India for International flights; and

(c) if so, what are the terms on which they are being leased out?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Indian Airlines purchased Airbuses in order to meet the growth in domestic traffic. It was also proposed to replace, on a phased basis, their Caravelle fleet.

(b) In terms of an agreement with Air-India, Indian Airlines commenced chartered flight operations on wet lease basis with Airbus aircraft to Gulf countries on sectors Bombay/Dubai/Bombay and Bombay/Muscat/Bombay from 18th and 19th June, 1977 respectively. These flights are being operated to two frequencies per week—Bombay/Dubai/Bombay on Saturdays and Bombay/Muscat/Bombay on Sundays. This operation will continue upto 15th December, 1977 for the present.

(c) Indian Airlines are reimbursed at an hourly rate of Rs. 14,605/-. This covers 50 per cent of the overheads of Indian Airlines plus 100 per cent repair and maintenance costs of the aircraft. In addition to the charges payable to Indian Airlines, Air-India