

(b) whether any steps are being taken to improve/modernise the communication facilities at these airports; and

(c) if so, the nature of steps being taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Modernisation of communication facilities is a continuous process and efforts are being made to improve facilities consistent with operational requirements and availability of resources. Some of the salient features of the Fifth Five Year Plan proposals in this behalf are:-

- (i) Improvement in the coverage of communication facilities between the ground Air Traffic Controllers and pilots.
- (ii) modernisation of the long and medium distance radio communication circuits
- (iii) change of mode of transmission from double side-band to single side-band for air radio telephone communication channels between aerodromes.
- (iv) utilisation of microwave links for speech circuits instead of landlines; and
- (v) introduction of automatic relay equipment for message handling.

**Stoppage of Overtime Allowance to Employees working in Indian Airlines and Air India**

912. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Third Pay Commission has recommended stoppage of Overtime Allowance in respect of certain categories of staff of the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether this aspect is also being considered for application in respect of the employees of the same categories working in the Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The Third Pay Commission has recommended *inter alia* that the system of overtime allowance should be withdrawn in respect of categories and establishments to which the practice was extended subsequent to the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission. For the categories which would become ineligible for overtime, a system of compensatory offs and payment of honoraria, subject to certain restrictions, has been recommended. The recommendations of the Commission are under examination.

(b) and (c). Air-India and Indian Airlines are statutory bodies established under the Air Corporations Act, 1953 and the recommendations of the Pay Commission do not apply to them.

**Measures to ensure safety of passengers travelling by Indian Airlines flights**

914. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the report of the comprehensive inquiry into the air accident near Delhi airport on 31st May, 1973 is expected to be received by Government; and

(b) what measures are proposed to be taken, in the meantime, to ensure the safety of the passengers travelling by Indian Airlines flights?