

**India-Singapore Air Talks**

1706. SHRI ANBUCHERZHIAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Singapore have reached an agreement allowing their respective national airlines to operate in each other's country;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed;

(c) if so, the main features thereof; and

(d) when it is likely to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore relating to air services was signed at Singapore on 23rd January, 1968.

(c) The agreement provides for operation of (i) air services to/through Singapore by an airline designated by the Government of India and (ii) air services to/through India by an airline designated by the Government of Singapore.

(d) The Agreement will formally come into force as soon as the respective Governments have notified to each other the ratification of the agreement in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. However, Air-India are already operating services through Singapore in accordance with the agreed arrangements.

**India-Mongolia Cultural Ex-Change Programme**

1707. SHRI ANBUCHERZHIAN:  
SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement between India and Mongolia for regular bilateral cultural exchange programme has been signed; and

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (Dr. TRIGUNA SEN): (a) Yes, Sir. A cultural exchange programme for 1967-69 has been drawn up and signed

(b) The Cultural Exchange Programme drawn up for 1967-69, envisages co-operation in the fields of Archaeology, Museums, Art and Culture, Radio and Television, and sports, through visits of musicians, artists and writers, exchange of publications between the National Museums and National Libraries, exchange of recordings, Radio programmes of cultural and scientific interest and recordings of music, exchange of personnel and delegations in the field of Radio and Television, and exchange of sports teams.

**... Recruitment of Pilots by I.A.C.**

1708. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots recently recruited by the Indian Airlines Corporation and the flying hours to the credit of each with the salary scale of each and the terms of employment;

(b) the exact basis on which these selections were made—whether with due emphasis on hours of flying experience or without it;

(c) whether it is a fact that while 12 candidates with hardly 200 hours flying experience were taken up, whereas 4 candidates with 900 to 2,000 flying hours to their credit were rejected; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. KARAN SINGH): (a) The Indian Airlines Corporation did not recruit any pilots in 1967. The Corporation held an interview on 25th January, 1968 for the selection of pilots at which 43 candidates were called. The selection has not yet been finalised.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.