

Deb for his views and dissenting proposals, if any. No dissenting proposals have so far been received from him by the Commission. The Commission's proposals will be shortly published in the Gazette inviting objections and suggestions from the public.

Calcutta-Agartala Air Service

121. **Shri Dasaraha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) when the direct I.A.C. flights from Calcutta to Agartala over Pakistan air space are likely to be resumed; and

(b) whether any negotiations are being made between the Governments of India and Pakistan in this regard?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) The Government of India and Government of Pakistan have agreed to resumption of overflying over each other territories as prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Consequently the Indian Airlines Corporation have resumed operation of its scheduled services from Calcutta to Agartala overflying Pakistan air space with effect from 10th February, 1966.

(b) Does not arise.

Air Fares

122. **Shri Basappa:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to reduce the air fares of the Air India in order to promote tourism; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). International Air Fares are regulated by the International Air Transport Association.

Air-India is a member of I.A.T.A. and have always pressed for reduction in the level of the existing promotional fares and for the introduction of new promotional fares. At the recent North Atlantic Traffic Conference Meeting convened at Bermuda in September-October, 1965 to discuss fares Air India obtained a reduction in fares to India as indicated below:—

- (i) Reductions by amounts ranging from US 31.90 to US 45.30 in the level of the currently existing individual excursion fares from the U.S.A., Canada and Mexico to India; and
- (ii) Introduction of individual inclusive tour fares from the U.S.A., Canada and Mexico to India at a discount of approximately 29%.

These agreements would be implemented with effect from 1st April, 1966 subject to approval by the Governments concerned.

Joint Publicity for Tourism

123. **Shri M. Rampure:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether any arrangements have been made with neighbouring countries of Asia for joint publicity to encourage tourist traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). During the visit of the former Minister of Transport to Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia in April/May, 1965, the possibility of having a joint publicity programme with these countries was informally discussed. No formal arrangements have yet emerged as a result of these discussions.