

Projects sanctioned under CAPART

4262. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned by Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) in Kerala during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the names and locations of the voluntary agencies to which assistance has been provided by CAPART during the above period;

(c) the amount allocated, released and utilized by each of these voluntary agencies during these years;

(d) whether any evaluation has been made of the success of the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PF Deductions of Workers of Civil Works Utilities under AI

4263. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Civil Works Utilities under contractors of Air India are covered by Provident Fund Act;

(b) if so, whether Provident Fund is being deducted from the wages of these workers;

(c) whether the workers raised any dispute regarding irregularities in their Provident Fund deductions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action the Government propose to take to resolve the grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Only one contractor is covered under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Act, 1952. The remaining 12 contractors are not covered under EPF Act as they are employing less than 20 employees.

(b) The Provident Fund is deducted from the wages of the Contract Workers by the contractor who is covered under the Provident Fund Act, 1952. In respect of remaining contractors who have no EPF number, the amount of Provident Fund is deducted by Air India from

the contractor's bills as a precautionary measure since Air India is the principal employer.

(c) No specific dispute in the matter was raised.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Promotion to Technical Employees of Air India

4264. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disputes were raised under the Industrial Disputes Act regarding denial of promotion to Technical Employees of Air India during 1995, 1996 and 1997;

(b) the cases in which understanding was reached;

(c) whether these understandings were implemented in letter and spirit by Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Only one dispute relating to denial of promotion to a Senior Aircraft Technician was raised under the Industrial Dispute Act in the year 1996. An understanding was reached during the conciliation meeting before the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) that the case for promotion of the concerned official would be considered subject to fulfilment of the criteria under the revised promotion policy.

(c) and (d) The suggestion of ALC is under consideration of the management of Air India.

Introduction of Euro-Rail Credit Card

4265. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Euro-Rail Type Credit Card in the country;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines framed for issuing of such card;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these cards are likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME

IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) Indian Railways have approved a scheme called "Eurotrain International Explorer Pass Scheme" and not a Euro-Rail Type Credit Card. The main features of the scheme are:

- (i) A standard Pass uniformly applicable over all participating countries would be introduced. This scheme would entitle the foreign tourists visiting India with this pass to exchange it for Indrail Pass for travel on Indian Railway trains.
- (ii) Explorer Pass holder would be entitled for unlimited rail travel for the period of validity of the Pass as applicable in the case of Indrail Pass Scheme.
- (iii) M/s Eurotrain will be responsible for printing and supply of Explorer Passes to their agents at their own cost.
- (iv) Eurotrain International will be paid a 15% commission on the passes sold by them through their agents. Eurotrain International will be responsible for all aspects of accounting and payment of the collected fares of the sold tickets and will also undertake worldwide marketing of this product.
- (e) The scheme will come into operation after the procedural modalities are worked out.

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

4266. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the case of appointment on compassionate grounds are pending since 1990 with the Railways, zone-wise;
- (b) the reasons for delay in providing employment to the eligible persons; and
- (c) the time by which all the cases of appointment on compassionate grounds are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

- (b) Delays in making compassionate appointment occur due to the wards being minor, non availability of suitable vacancies, legal cases pending in courts, etc.

(c) Instructions have been issued and reiterated from time to time to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to all eligible persons as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. It is, however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointment on compassionate grounds as the same depends upon availability of eligible wards, availability of suitable vacancies, etc.

Manufacturing of Training Aircraft by HAL

4267. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the reliability of HPT-32 basic training aircraft manufactured by HAL for the IAF remained doubtful from the beginning; and
- (b) if so, the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. There have been no doubts about the reliability of HPT-32 basic training aircraft designed, developed and supplied by HAL to IAF. The fleet has logged more than 1,50,000 flying hours.

- (b) Not applicable in view of reply to part (a) of the Question.

Koili Airport (Kashmir)

4268. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Koili Airport in Kashmir is not fit for commercial Air Traffic as pointed out by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the hardships ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Koili Airport is understood to be another name for Awantipore airport which is a Defence airport. Following temporary closure of Srinagar Airport, civil flights are now operating to and from Awantipore Air Force Station. All necessary facilities have been provided at this new location by Airports Authority of India and Indian Air Force for commercial operations of airlines.

New Air Services to Bhubaneswar

4269. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the new flights proposed to be introduced to Bhubaneswar from different cities during the current financial year; and