

(a) whether the level of dialogue between India and China to resolve the issues that have been pending for a long time is proposed to be raised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chief of Army Staff from China also visited India recently;

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held with him; and

(e) the outstanding issues that have not yet been settled between both the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal for the present.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) During the visit, two sides reiterated their commitment to build a constructive and cooperative relationship.

(e) Various issues of mutual interest are being discussed in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and the India-China Expert Group. The last meeting of the JWG (10th) was held in New Delhi in August 1997.

Committee for Route Rationalisation

190. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India Board has called for route rationalisation with a view to ease the financial crunch that Air India is facing;

(b) if so, whether any Committee has been set up to formulate a viable longterm strategy; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) A Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India has been set up to give its recommendations on the route rationalization between Air India and Indian Airlines. Government have also constituted a committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay K. Kelkar, Chairman, Tariff Commission to undertake a comprehensive examination of the reasons for the losses incurred by the Air India and to suggest a strategy for turning around the company.

(c) Does not arise.

Delhi Rent Control Act

191. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1995 stands at present;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from the landlords and also the trader tenants in regard to the Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Delhi Rent Bill, 1994 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 29.5.95 and by the Lok Sabha on 3.6.95. It was assented to by the President on 23.8.95 and it become Delhi Rent Act, 95. The Delhi Rent Act, 95 has not been brought into force so far.

(b) and (c) The Government has received a large number of representations both from the landlords and tenants (including trader tenants). While the landlords have been requesting for bringing the said Act into force immediately, the tenants have been demanding changes in some of the provisions of the Act before it is brought into force. These changes pertain to the clauses relating to deemed rent, compulsory registration of tenancies, inheritability of tenancies of non-residential premises, enhancement of rent and eviction of tenants.

(d) The Government decided after examining the matter in detail to amend the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 before it is brought into force. Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill, 1997, was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28.7.97 which at present is pending in the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

Export of Granite

192. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports granite and fine quality of granite is available in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether efforts made by Government to increase the export of granite have not brought good results;

(c) whether the recommendations made in the Conference of State Minister's held last year to increase export of the processed granite have been implemented; and

(d) if so, the outcomes thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The efforts made by the Government to increase the Export of Granite has borne good results as would be evident from the steady growth of exports during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Some of the recommendations have already been implemented. In that direction, Granite Development Council has been reconstituted for overseeing the overall development of granite industry including its export. In addi-