

[Translation]

**Sub-standard Services of I.A.**

827. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian air services are found at par with the international standards;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the programmes formulated/to be formulated to bring the country's air services at par with international services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Indian air services are operated in accordance with the standards laid down by the Aircraft Act, 1934, the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various Civil Aviation Requirements. It is ensured by Director General of Civil Aviation that the standards laid down by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) are adhered to.

**Foreign Investment in Civil Aviation**

828. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :  
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :  
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :  
SHRI MAGANTI VENKATESHWAR RAO :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :  
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to allow foreign investment in Civil Aviation Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing policy on domestic air transport services sector, 100% NRI/OCB and 40% foreign equity participation is permissible in the domestic transport services sector. However, equity from foreign airline, directly or indirectly, is prohibited.

"Policy on airport Infrastructure" stipulates foreign equity participation upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission.

Discussions are under way to attract foreign investment in the infrastructure sector. However, no proposal in project form has so far been received.

**Upliftment of People below Poverty Line**

829. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :  
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of families living below poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for constant increase in the number of families living below poverty line; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Statement showing the total number of families living below poverty line in the country, is attached.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates by the Planning Commission, the population below poverty line has decreased from 2612 lakh in 1973-74 to 2440 lakh in 1993-94 at All India level. Government are implementing several anti-poverty schemes, such as the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Million Well Scheme (MWS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) towards provision of social assistance as well as generation of wage and self employment. In addition, under the programme of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), houses are provided to the rural poor.