

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Haj Pilgrimage

3420. SHRI K. KRISNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to engage any foreign based aviation company to transport Haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on Air India;

(c) the total number of pilgrims expected to go on Haj during the year; and

(d) the amount of subsidy to be paid by the Government on each Haj pilgrim this year and the estimated total subsidy to be borne by the Government during the year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) M/s. MIDO Aviation Group, USA has been engaged for undertaking Haj movement by air during Haj-1999 which commenced from 18.2.99. There is no impact on Air India as Haj flights are undertaken on "no profit no loss" basis.

(c) The number of pilgrim for Haj, 1999 is expected to be 63,000.

(d) The amount of subsidy to be paid by the Government per pilgrim is Rs. 17640 and the total subsidy for 63000 Hajis has been estimated at Rs. 111 crores.

### Gauge Conversion

3421. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects for conversion of Khagaria-Samastipur and Katihar-Jogbani metre gauge lines into broad gauge are still pending clearance; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the projects 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projects were included in the budget without completion of current surveys. Surveys have since been got completed and the clearance process has been initiated.

### Air India International Flight to Agra

3422. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending under consideration of the Government for International flights of Air India to Agra Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Supreme Court's Ruling on Employment

3423. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 319 dated August 13, 1997 regarding Supreme Court ruling on employment and state:

(a) whether the Government have since filed a review petition before the Supreme court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The Review Petition filed by the Government in the Supreme Court against Supreme Court judgement dated 22.8.96 in the case of the Excise Superintendent Malkapatnam, Krishna District, Andhra