

Special Pay Package for Defence Scientists

3459. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give special pay package to defence scientists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date with effect from which the special pay package has been granted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No special pay package has been given exclusively for Defence scientists. However, the Government have approved some incentives for retaining the scientists of Department of Defence R&D, Space and Atomic energy. In addition an award scheme has also been instituted for recognising excellence in scientific and technological achievements for the scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Serving of Liquor at Bhubaneswar Airport

3460. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of liquor is allowed in the Airport restaurants;

(b) if so, the specific arrangements made, if any, in regard thereto;

(c) if not, whether the Government are aware that the consumption of liquor has become a daily phenomenon in the restaurant of Bhubaneswar Airport; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps being taken in the matter to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Licensees of the restaurants at the five International airports have been authorised to serve liquor. Similarly, at certain domestic airports liquor is allowed to be served

on the basis of agreements entered into with the licensees of the restaurants.

(c) and (d) There is no provision to serve liquor in the agreement entered into with the licensees of the restaurant at Bhubaneswar Airport. Constant vigil is maintained at this airport to ensure that the terms and conditions of the agreement are not violated.

Chinese Arms Exports Market

3461. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese arms exports market is expected to open up affecting India in terms of its own acquisitions; and

(b) if so, the measures being considered by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Chinese arms exports during 1993-1997 stood at US\$ 3531 million. Their arms export market can be expected to open up in tandem with their economy opening up. However, arms acquisition by India is not dependent on arms exports by the Chinese.

2. Government continues to closely monitor all developments which have a bearing on our national security and to take appropriate measures to safeguard the national interest.

Flights of Air India

3462. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of air traffic carried out of India by the Air India and the foreign air-carriers for the past five years; and

(b) the steps that are being taken to increase the flights of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The details are as under :

Year	Traffic carried from India by	
	Air India	Foreign Airlines
1993-94	849834	2839381
1994-95	890755	2946484
1995-96	1058670	3356043
1996-97	1078119	3634680
1997-98	1118012	3860259

(b) There are no immediate plans to increase capacity by Air India. In view of limited capacity, Air India has restructured flight operations based on cash margins to ensure maximum profitability.

Customer Services by Indian Airlines

3463. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have improved or propose to improve the customer services on ground and in the Air;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the operating revenue of Indian Airlines during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines is taking measures to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in the service rendered to the passengers as-also increase in profitability through:—
(i) Product upgrade, (ii) Increased utilisation of aircraft,

(iii) Increased International operations, (iv) Increased productivity, (v) Creation of profit centres, (vi) Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies, (vii) Launching of Alliance Air, and (viii) Cost control measures.

(c) The operating revenue of Indian Airlines during the last three financial years was as below:

Year	Operating Revenue (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	2466.81
1996-97	2848.55
1997-98	3243.45

Purchase of Cranes

3464. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made a deal for purchasing of cranes having capacity of 140 tonnes;

(b) if so, the number of cranes and the price at which these cranes have been purchased and the name of the firm alongwith the country with whom this deal has been concluded;

(c) whether the cranes of the same capacity could also be manufactured in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing these cranes?

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.