and enhancing defence cooperation between the two countries and other related issues. Further a general agreement for training of Indian military personnel in military educational institutions of the Russian Federation was also signed.

The Russian Defence Minister called on the External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister. The three Service Chiefs also called on him.

\\\   **Impacts of Y2K on Defence Systems**

3587. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impacts of the Y2K problem on Defence System of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The issue of Y2K compliance and identification of Y2K related problems in Defence Systems is receiving due attention in the Ministry.

The monitoring of Y2K related issues for Defence Systems has been broken down into the following :

(i) Critical EDP Systems (including operating and application software).

(ii) Inventory Management.

(iii) Pay-Roll Management.

(iv) Embedded System of the Defence Services which can be affected by the Y2K problems.

The above issues are being addressed with regard to the Defence Services, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Ordnance Factories and the Inter Service Organisations in the Ministry of Defence. The various Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) vendors have been contacted and a Y2K expertise cell consisting of Defence Research Development Organisation and the Central Research Lab of Bharat Electricals Ltd, Bangalore are providing the necessary Research and Development guidance for rectification.

All EDP systems, which are critical, have been identified and most of them have already been fixed and patched for Y2K compliance. This is also the case with inventory and payroll management.

The issue of Embedded Systems involves weapons, and surveillance and navigation systems. Y2K problems associated with Embedded Systems are very complex. Both identification and resolution call for a high degree of expertise and greater involvement of OEMs. Work on such systems is in hand.

As soon as the rectification work in various organisations is completed it is programmed to conduct a technical audit to validate the work done.

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Indian Airlines Flights to Hong Kong

3588. SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has extended its services to Hong Kong; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

\\2   *Civil Aviation*

Expenditure on Advertisements

3589. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Public Undertakings under the Ministry are concentrating more on advertisements through media instead of on improving efficiency in air services;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on such advertisements during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to ensure economy in such expenditure and for improving efficiency by indicating the total vacant capacity carried; increases in air traffic and idling time of aircraft year to year?

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

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.