

(d) Indian Airlines has adequate pilots to operate its services in the existing schedule. Air India has taken the following measures to overcome the shortage of pilots:—

1. The training of pilots has been accelerated on all types of aircraft.
2. Following the understanding reached with Indian pilots Guild, the circuitous career pattern of pilots for moving from basic aircraft to higher aircraft has been changed and faster flow of pilots has been achieved.
3. Augmentation of check pilots/instructors and examiners to some extent is also achieved. Sufficient number of these categories are very vital for expediting the training of pilots.
4. Coordination meetings have been held with officials of Directorate General of Civil Aviation to simplify the training procedures without diluting the quality and standard of training. The new procedure of training cuts down the training time.

[English]

Industry Status to Cinema

*240. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to grant industry status to cinema in order to provide institutional finance to the Cinema industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the action plan formulated in consultation with the representatives of cinema industry all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) and (b) Government have decided to confer industry status on the film sector with the broad objective of facilitating its all round development. Consequent to this decision, Government have initiated various measures, which include the following major ones.

- (1) Setting up of an Expert Committee to examine the issue of making film production and other related activities eligible for institutional and bank finances.

(2) Holding of Seminars and discussions in association with Federation of Film Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on matters like film financing, insurance and corporatisation.

(3) Establishment of a Development Council for film industry.

(4) Establishment of an Export Promotion Forum for films and other audio visual products.

(5) Requesting State Governments to consider, *inter-alia*, grant of industry status to the film sector.

Money Recovered from Outlawed Organisations

2306. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the amount of money recovered by the armed forces from various outlawed organisations of North-Eastern region since 'Operation Rhino' was launched against such outfits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): As on 3.3.1999, a total amount of Rs. 1,07,45,399/- has been recovered from the different outlawed organisations in the North Eastern region since the launching of "Operation Rhino".

More Flights on Calcutta-Agartala Sector

2307. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments for increasing the frequency of flights at Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines proposes to increase the frequency of flights on Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta sector from 11 to 12 flights per week in the summer schedule.

Purchase of Colr Products for Military

2308. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: