

Vacancies of Artists

2329. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancies for the artists specialised in playing on organ, a Western music electric key board instrumentalist are lying vacant in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria fixed for the selection of the above artists and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Profits/Losses on Investment in Airports Authority of India

2330. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment, Government and non-Government, made in the Airports Authority of India;

(b) the annual profit and loss account of the said Authority as on March, 1998;

(c) the percentage of profit being earned by private sector on the investment made by the Government as on March, 1998; and

(d) the reasons for the difference in the profit earned by the Government and private investors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Investment of the Government in form of equity in Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 1.4.1998 is Rs. 325.13 crores. So far there is no non-Governmental investment in the equity of AAI.

(b) The Authority had earned Post Tax Profit of Rs. 196.14 crores during the year ended on 31.03.98.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Widening of Bilaspur Airstrip

2331. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received for widening of the airstrip and restoring of air services in Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which the widening of airstrip is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Bilaspur airstrip is suitable for 30 seater type of aircraft. This airstrip is not maintained in operational condition, since no airline has projected its requirement to operate from this airstrip. Airports Authority of India has no plans to develop this airstrip. As regards restoring of air services, it is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Bilaspur depending upon traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route-dispersal guidelines.

[English]

Ningha Aerodrome (W.B.)

2332. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ningha Aerodrome in West Bengal is being maintained by the Ministry of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has any plan and programme for the development of this Aerodrome; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The airstrip at Ningha in Asansol District of West Bengal has been abandoned long ago, because of activities related to coal mining.