

AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that it is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to bring about qualitative improvement in its programmes with a view to sustain the interest of the viewers and to enable its programme to compete successfully with the programmes telecast by other satellite channels.

(b) Prasar Bharati have reported that at present there is no proposal to set up high quality TV Programme Production Centres in other Metropolitan cities exclusively on the lines of Central Production Centre, Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Non-Rotable Spares of Aircraft

2442. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has asked the Airbus and Boeing Industries to buyback surplus non-rotable spares of their aircraft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the respective industry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has submitted a list of 1145 non-moving items to Airbus Industries, Germany and a list of 1168 non-moving items to Boeing Company, USA for buy-back.

In response to the above, Airbus Industries has offered to buy back 275 items at a price of USD 150,000/ and Boeing Company has offered to buy back 274 items at a total price of USD 180,489.

Scam in Kitchen Unit of Central Railway

2443. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam in the Base Kitchen Unit of Central Railway has been detected recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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) to (c) No, Sir. Routine checks are conducted to monitor the catering services. Recently a check was conducted at Nagpur by Central Railway Vigilance Department and CBI jointly, wherein minor irregularities were detected for which departmental action would be taken on receipt of final report.

Linking of Rameshwaram with Sri Lanka by Rail

2444. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to link India (Rameshwaram) with Sri Lanka (Main Land) by Rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no demand for such a rail link.

Adjustment of Security Deposited by the Private Airlines

2445. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD):

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adjusted the outstanding dues against the security deposited by the private airlines as on February 28, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount that is still due against each of the private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Security deposit is taken to cover the dues for a period of 15 days operation towards credit period. Adjustment of Security Deposit against outstanding is normally done when outstanding exceed the Security Deposit amount. In some cases although the outstandings

are more than the Security Deposit, adjustment of Security Deposit against outstanding has not been done since in these cases legal action has been initiated for recovery.

(c) A detailed statement of outstanding dues against each Private Airlines as on February 28, 1999 is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Statement of dues owed by Private Airlines as on 28 February, 1999

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Airlines	Total Dues	Total Security Deposit
1	2	3
Jet Airways	547.19	674.53
Sahara India Airlines	147.80	146.36
Blue Dart Aviation	14.24	22.11
Necon Airlines	1.45	2.93
India Antl. Airways	0.83	0.86
KCV Airlines	4.40	0.30
UP Airways	11.66	13.80
East West Airlines	1787.03	7.92
Jagson Airlines	43.24	2.00
NEPC/Skyline NEPC Airlines	347.79	96.10
Trans Bharat Aviation	14.09	0.93

1	2	3
Citi Link Airlines	1.48	0.00
Modiluft Airlines	73.88	49.28
Continental Aviation	27.84	0.00
Ariel Services	0.15	0.94
J.K. Corporation	0.18	0.20
Eastern Airways	0.70	2.22
East India Hotels	0.09	0.72
B.S. Magithia	0.53	0.40
Gujarat Airways	7.97	12.70
Bengal Airways	3.65	6.97
United India Airways	1.83	0.00
Raj Aviation	1.26	1.37
Archana Airways	17.71	7.04
VIF Airways	13.22	0.45
Span Aviation	27.66	3.07
Saraya Aviation	0.93	0.97

1	2	3
Megapode Airlines	0.27	0.25
ACE Airways	2.56	0.88
Elbee Airlines	37.80	3.30
MESCO Airlines	1.75	7.35
Total	3141.54	1055.91

[*Translation*]**Advertisements to Non-Government Magazines**

2446. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the non-Governmental registered magazines which are being given Government advertisements;

(b) the magazines out of them which are earning money from advertisements but not paying any remunerations to persons whose articles are published by them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put a ban on giving Government advertisements to these magazines so as to check exploitation of writers?

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) As per DAVP list there are 344 magazines which are given Government advertisements.

(b) and (c) With a view to uphold the principle of freedom of the press the Government does not interfere within the internal affairs of newspapers/magazines.

[*English*]**Losses by Air India**

2447. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India continued to incur additional losses during the last two months of 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to take the airline out of the red?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the provisional results of December, 1998 to January, 1999, Air India had incurred a loss of Rs. 19.29 crores as against budgeted loss of Rs. 37.46 crores for the period December, 1998 to January, 1999.

The losses are mainly on account of increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges and depreciation of rupee value.