

(b) whether the Govt. propose to recruit women in the Railway Protection Police Force; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Signing the Agreement

1062 SHRI R. DEVADASS :

SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has lost Rs. 63 crores due to the signing of Wet Lease and at the time of signing the Agreement Air India was aware that Wet Lease will be significantly costlier.

(b) if so the facts thereof.

(c) the grounds on which the agreement was approved, and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Despite knowing that wetleased operations would result in losses, Air India decided to wetlease three A-310 and two L-1011 aircraft to provide growth and to bridge capacity to expand their market presence in the long term commercial interest. This is an interim measure till Air India acquires own aircraft.

Air India has since terminated its wetlease agreement with Caribjet for one A-310 and two L-1011 aircraft due to violations of Civil Aviation requirements in their operations

#### Upgradation and Validation for Air Tickets in A.I.

1063 SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for the upgradation and validation for air tickets in Air India.

(b) the number of air tickets upgraded and revalidated during 1995 and 1996, so far, and the authority under whose orders it has been done and

(c) the loss suffered by Air India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Following categories of passengers are upgraded to the next higher class by

Air India subject to availability of seats :-

(i) A Maharajah Club member alongwith his family.

(ii) Joint Secretaries and above in all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

(iii) Selected passengers holding full fare tickets on commercial considerations

(iv) Off loaded passengers

No validation of tickets is required as upgradations are effected at the airport subject to availability of seats

(b) Regional Heads, on line Managers of Stations Commercial Manager of Delhi and Mumbai airports Deputy Commercial Manager, Tourism Air India are authorised to upgrade. The information regarding actual upgradations during 1995 and 1996 is not readily available

(c) No loss of revenue is suffered as upgraded passengers do not displace any revenue passenger

#### Facilities to Pilgrims at Sabarimala Temple of Kerala

1064 PROF. P.J. KURIEN Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that millions of devotees visit every year the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala and that they are not provided with adequate facilities

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to provide better facilities to the devotees.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action plan of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). Development of Tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. However, the Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State/Union Territory Govts. on the basis of specific proposals received, their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds

No proposal for Sabarimala has been received from the State Govt.

#### Selling of Boeing-737-200S

1065. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "IA sells its old