

(b) if so, the share of the Centre, and the State Governments;

(c) whether these funds have been allotted to the District under the second phase;

(d) whether the Centre's share of Rs. 2.69 crores have been sanctioned for various purposes; and

(e) if so, the purposes for which this has been sanctioned and how much out of this amount has been utilised by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUA PATIL): (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 563.95 lakhs (including Rs. 290.15 lakhs as 1st instalment) of Central share has been released during 1997-98 under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) to Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government's share was Rs. 140.99 (including Rs. 72.54 lakhs for 2nd instalment).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 290.15 lakhs has been sanctioned as 2nd instalment of central share under JRY which include 269.62 lakhs for DRDA & Rs. 20.53 lakhs additional release for Village Panchayats. Jry Programme is being implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at Village/Block/District level. The works/projects can be taken up as per the felt need of the people with the approval of the respective Panchayats for achieving its main objectives i.e. generation of employment and creation of social/economic assets for the sustained and continued benefit of the rural poor. An amount of Rs. 427.42 lakhs has been reported to be utilised by the district upto March, 1998.

#### **Introduction of Flights from Hyderabad**

2346. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is for the first time that Hyderabad-Singapore flight was introduced in the month of March, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has urged the Centre to link more countries from Hyderabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Request has been received from the State Government to provide air connections between Hyderabad and Kuwait, Jeddah and Kula Lumpur. Of these, services to Kuwait have since been started by Indian Airlines. The other destinations have not yet been connected due to inadequate traffic potential and/or shortage of aircraft capacity.

#### **Foreign Investment in Mining**

2347. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to operate some mining projects in the country in collaboration with Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Australia has made some offer for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the specific mining projects proposed to be launched in collaboration with Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved the proposal for formation of a Joint Venture between BHP Minerals International Exploration Inc. Australia, a private Australian Company with Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under Department of Mines to prospect for base metal deposits in Rajasthan, and, if found viable, to undertake mining operations. In addition, some private Australian mining companies have been given approval by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board for investment in the mining sector through companies registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

[*Translation*]

#### **Concessions to Senior Citizens by Indian Airlines**

2348. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines provides concessions in tickets to those people who are more than 70 years of age; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?