

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines offers 50% discount to all Senior Citizens who have completed 65 years of age and are residents of India. The discount is available for travel in Economy Class on domestic sectors of the Indian Airlines.

[English]

Link Roads in Farm Sector

2349. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project submitted by the State Government of Kerala for construction of link roads in the farm sector has been pending with the Union Government for its approval and financial assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Yatri Niwas at Jammu

2350. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to construct Railway Yatri Niwas at Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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.

Major Build-up along LAC

2351. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon the explosion of nuclear bombs at Pokharan, there has recently been a major build-up by Pakistan along the Line of Actual Control (LAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has resulted in a sudden infiltration of militants in the Kashmir Valley; and

(d) the outcome of the measures taken to meet the sudden upsurge along the LAC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are reports that just prior to Pakistani nuclear explosion, some troops and artillery were moved near the Line of Control and Indo-Pak border. Some air defence missiles were also reportedly moved to some vital areas.

(c) No, sir. However attempts of infiltration of militants increases during summer months every year.

(d) Constant vigil is maintained on the border by our troops and appropriate measures are taken to thwart any attempt of mis-adventure on the part of our adversary.

[Translation]

Suspension of Flights

2352. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Mumbai based air services suspended their flights since January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue loss suffered by Airport Authority of India due to the suspension of such flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) East West Airlines, a Mumbai-based airline has suspended operations since June, 1996. Skyline - NEPC Ltd., another Mumbai - based airline, has suspended operations since June, 1997. Further, Modiluft Ltd. And NEPC Airlines which were operating ex-Mumbai have also closed down/suspended operations.

(c) The monthly revenue loss calculated by Airports Authority of India on account of the suspension of such flights is Rs. 72.34 lakhs.

[English]

Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

2353. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: