

clearance of applications in this regard. The High Powered Board would comprise of Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Union Government co-opted of senior State Government representatives as required.

- Captive generating units are being encouraged to sell/distribute surplus power to SEBs on the basis of contractual agreement and standardised two part tariff.
- Necessary amendments to the Electricity Acts are being brought out shortly.
- A special Cell is proposed to be created in Department of Power of deal with proposals expeditiously for private sector participation.

#### **Indian Airlines on Foreign Routes**

1986. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines is also operating on foreign routes;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to leave the operational activities on all foreign routes exclusively to Air India and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Operations on regional

routes by India Airlines were envisaged in the Statement of Objects & Reasons attached to the parent Act namely the Air Corporations Act, 1953.

#### **Air Strip in Sikkim**

1987. SHRI NANDU THAPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plans to provide an Air Strip in Sikkim;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) when it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) National Airports Authority have no plans to construct an air strip in Sikkim during the 8th Plan period.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **Power Shortage in Karnataka**

1988. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: SHRI J.C.P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka is facing an acute shortage of power;
- (b) whether power cut in some industrial centres in Karnataka is more than 50%;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to expedite the setting up of a thermal power plant at Mangalore;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI):** (a) During July, 1990, Karnataka faced an energy shortage of 22.8%.

(b) 10—50% Energy Cut and 10—20% demand cut on HT industries with contract demand above 1000 KVA was imposed in Karnataka during July, 1990.

(c) to (e). A 2x210 MW thermal plant at Mangalore is proposed to be set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation during the 8th Plan.

### **Ban on Smoking**

1989. **SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE:** Will the Minister **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway has banned smoking in all the hospitals, dispensaries and educational institutions, run by it;

(b) whether Railways also propose to ban smoking in all classes of trains; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Smoking has been prohibited in AC Sleeper and AC Chair Car Coaches. In other coaches, no person should smoke in any compartment, if objected to, by any other passenger in that compartment.

### **Foreign Air Services in India**

1990. **SHRI N. DENNIS:** Will the Minister of **CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign air services operating in India at various flights;

(b) whether these airlines enjoy concessional rates; and

(c) if so, the details of these concessions?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI):** (a) A total of 41 foreign airlines are operating 277 weekly flights to/from/through India.

(b) No, Sir. All the foreign airlines operating services to/from/through India are charged uniformity with reference to landing/parking and route navigation facility charges.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Promotion of Salt Industry in Goa**

1991. **PROF. GOPALRAO MAYEKAR:** Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote salt industry in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH):** (a) and (b). There is no proposal to promote Salt Industry in Goa as climatic conditions are not favourable for manufacture of salt by solar evaporation and the soil is not suitable for manufacture of salt on scientific lines.

[*Translation*]

### **Extension of Maharashtra Express Upto Gondia**

1992. **SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE:** Will the Minister **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state: