Expansion of Airports in U.P.

2045. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand some airports and construct some new air strips in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details in regard there-to and the time by which the construction thereof is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). There is no plan at present to construct new air strips in Uttar Pradesh. However, extension and modification of the terminal complex at the Agra airport and construction of a new terminal complex at the Lucknow airport are contemplated for 1991-92.

Ground Duties to Air Hostesses

2046. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has decided to entrust ground duties to the air hostesses after a certain age;

(b) if so, whether the said decision is being opposed by the employees' associations; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop implementation of the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The circular in question of Air India

is not discriminatory and there is no proposal to withdraw it.

Losses incurred by the Hotel Corporation of India

2047. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: SHRI A. VUAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hotel Corporation of India is running into loss;

(b) if so, the names of its units running in loss;

(c) whether the Government have decided to sell this company to private parties; and

(d) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Except the Centaur hotel, Bombay Airport, other units are incurring losses.

(c) and (d). The Board of Air-India has decided that the Hotel Corporation of India should seek equity collaboration with an internationally reputed hotel chain willing to take over the marketing and management of the Hotel Corporation of India. This has become necessary on account of the high losses suffered by the HCI and its inability to compete effectively in the market.

[English]

Permission to private agencies for operating Air Taxis

2048. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE: