

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a daily Delhi-Bhubaneswar direct flight due to the heavy rush of passengers; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The traffic potential and aircraft availability do not permit a daily direct flight between Delhi and Bhubaneswar.

Purchase of Airbus A-320

*5. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the press reports alleging payment of kickbacks in the purchase of Airbus A-320.

(b) if so, the details about the purchase of these Airbuses;

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into the deal; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Some reports have appeared in the press to this effect.

(b) Indian Airlines, with the approval of the Government placed two orders for the purchase of Airbus A-320 aircraft. The first order was placed on the 15th of March, 1986 for 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft at a total project cost of Rs. 1,238.37 crores involving a foreign exchange component of US \$ 951.86 million and second order for the purchase of 12 Airbus A-320 aircraft was placed on the 5th of June, 1989 at a total project cost of Rs. 958.76 crores with a foreign exchange

component of US \$ 633.121 million.

(c) and (d). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Maunath Bhanjan Thermal Power Station

*6. SHRI JAGDISH SINGH KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the capacity of Maunath Bhanjan thermal power station from 10 MW to 200 MW for the economic development as well as for removing the backwardness of eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). No feasibility report to upgrade the power plant at Maunath Bhanjan has been received in the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic appraisal.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Westland Helicopters

*7. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Fabled fleet lies forlorn" appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated February 10, 1990;