

(a) whether a number of international carriers are willing to fly to Calcutta if the Union Government give them permission to operate onwards to Singapore or other destinations in the Far East;

(b) whether some of the foreign Airlines view Calcutta as a viable stop-over point en route to destinations in the Far East, especially Singapore;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered the terms set by the Airlines for Calcutta halt; and

(d) the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Government of India have received, from only one airlines, namely Singapore Airlines, a request for introducing direct air services between Singapore and Calcutta.

(b) Only Balkan airlines (Bulgarian Airlines) had evinced interest in operating to Far East especially Bangkok via Calcutta.

(c) and (d) An air services agreement was concluded between India and Bulgaria as a result of which the Balkan airlines was authorised to operate on the route Sofia-Abu Dhabi-Calcutta-Bangkok. But the Balkan airlines has not indicated the date from which it will start operating to/through Calcutta.

Offers from leading companies to own wagons

*364. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have received offers from several leading companies to own wagons on behalf of bulk consumers to help them meet the scarcity of wagons; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken on the offers received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yer, Sir.

(b) In about 3 months time.

[*Translation*]

Funds for acquisition of wagons

*366. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of wagons in the country;

(b) whether any estimate has been made of the total requirement of wagons in the Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, the number of wagons proposed to be acquired in the above plan period;

(d) the funds earmarked for that purpose; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total requirement of wagons during the Seventh Plan period has been estimated as around 96,000 wagons in terms of four-wheeler units.

(c) 96,000 wagons in terms of four-wheeler units.

(d) and (e) Approximately, Rs. 2,000 crores for wagons, out of a total provision of Rs. 4290 crores for procurement of rolling stock.

[*English*]

Training and coaching facilities for games

*367. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :