

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) The auctions were held at the Scindia House Regional Headquarters and also at Shadipur Depot of Delhi Transport Corporation. Auctions were held on 30th January, 6th, 7th, 13th and 20th February of 1988.

(b) The total income is Rs. 1.93 lakhs (excluding tax) and expenditure is Rs. 17,026.76

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

{English}

#### Breakthrough in Cancer Research

\*444. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 1 March, 1988 captioned "Breakthrough in cancer research";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of DNA binding proteins as mentioned in the news item are not available. Several DNA binding gene regulatory proteins have been identified. Implications of such studies in switching on or off cancer cell division are as yet highly speculative.

#### Experts Team on Desert Bio-Sphere Reserve

\*445 SHRI S.B. SIDNAL :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a team of experts to prepare a report on establishment of desert Bio-Sphere reserve in Thar Desert;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the team; and

(c) whether recommendations of the team of experts have been considered by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team has recommended setting up of a biosphere reserve in about 3,100 sq. km with a core area of approximately 600 sq. km. in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Rajasthan.

(c) The Project Report prepared by the team has been referred to the State Government of Rajasthan for their remarks.

#### Direct Flights Between Delhi-Portblair via Bhubaneswar

\*446. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce direct flights between Delhi and Portblair via Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, when it is going to be implemented; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Airlines thereon ?