

The overall target thus envisages a growth of 14.8% in the year, 1980-81 over 1979-80.

(c) Among the several steps taken by Government during the current year to improve the supplies of coking coal and power to the steel plants, mention may be made of the following:

(i) Close monitoring of the position regarding supply of coal and power and rail movement is being done every week by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure;

(ii) Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the coal producers (CIL, BCCL etc.) and the Ministry of Energy (including the power generating bodies such as DVC and State Electricity Boards) so as to ensure maximum supplies of power for production of coking coal as well as steel;

(iii) Regular liaison on daily basis is being maintained with the coal supplying agencies and the Railways by a Co-ordination Cell at Calcutta (on which SAIL is also represented) so as to ensure adequate and timely availability of wagons and prompt movement of loaded rakes;

(iv) Power supply to the coal mines is being augmented by giving them a higher priority so as to improve the production of coal in Bihar—West Bengal belt which is the main source of coking coal production in the country;

(v) Timely action was taken to import 1.2 million tonnes of high grade low ash coking coal so as to augment the indigenous supplies and also to improve the quality of coke feed to the blast furnaces. Strategy for further import of coking coal during 1980-81 so as to maintain the continuity of such supplies is also under consideration; and

(vi) Schemes have been sanctioned for augmentation of captive power generation capacity at Durgapur and

Bokaro Steel Plants to the extent of 300 M.W.

Development of Tourist Potential of Kanyakumari

*252. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether any study has been made in Kanyakumari, the southernmost land-tip of the nation, as to the basic minimum amenities for both inland and foreign tourists; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to develop the tourist potential of Kanyakumari?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Central Department of Tourism had provided funds for the renovation of the Cape Hotel and met 50% of the cost of constructing the Tourist Bungalow at Kanyakumari. It has also given a motor launch to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial for ferrying visitors between Kanyakumari and Vivekananda Rock. Since tourists visiting Trivandrum/Kovalam Beach Resort take a half day excursion trip to Kanyakumari, the existing facilities available are considered to be adequate. For the large number of domestic tourists and pilgrims, inexpensive accommodation is available in rest houses and private lodges at Kanyakumari. Further development of facilities at Kanyakumari in the Central Sector will depend upon the availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Phasing out of Maharaja Lounge on Jumbo Aircraft of Air India

*253. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to phase

out gradually the Maharaja lounge on the Jumbo aircraft of Air India; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Air India's proposal for the modification of its 747 aircraft fleet to instal thirty economy class seats on the upper deck which is presently being used as a lounge for first class passengers has been approved by Government.

(b) The basic objective of converting the upper deck lounge is to provide additional economy class seating to make more productive utilisation of the space available on the upper deck of the aircraft. With the very steep escalation in costs and introduction of low fares, the 747 operators have decided to take this course. It will also provide Air India with the flexibility to meet the directional and seasonal peak traffic demands especially on sectors into and out of India.

कोटा परमिट प्रणाली

* 254. श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोटा-परमिट प्रणाली मूल्यों में वृद्धि के लिए मुख्य रूप से जिम्मेदार है और इससे आवश्यक वस्तुओं की सप्लाई में कठिनाइयां उत्पन्न होती हैं क्योंकि ठेकेदार समय पर माल नहीं उठाते हैं और इनकी सुगम उपलब्धता में बाधा पहुंचाते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का विचार कोटा-परमिट प्रणाली समाप्त करने और खुले बाजार में आवश्यक वस्तुओं की पर्याप्त सप्लाई सुनिश्चित करने का है ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) की नहीं ।

(ख) वर्तमान सभी नियंत्रणों को समाप्त करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है । तथापि, सरकार उत्पादन तथा आपूर्ति बढ़ाकर, आघार-ढांचे संबंधी बाधाओं को दूर करके और आवश्यक वस्तुओं के वितरण को सुप्रवाही बनाकर उपभोक्ताओं को आवश्यक वस्तुएं पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्ध कराने के लिए प्रयत्नशील है । राज्य सरकारों से कहा गया है कि वे आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम और इसी प्रकार के कानूनों के अंतर्गत जारी किए गए आदेशों को सख्ती से लागू करें ।

Supersession of Senior Officers of I.A.

*255. SHRIMATI MOHSINA

KIDWAI:

SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to press report regarding peremptory manner in which some seniormost officers of Indian Airlines have either been asked to proceed on leave or they are being superseded by much junior colleagues;

(b) if so, his reactions to the news; and

(c) whether, in the above context, some steps are being taken to restore confidence in Indian Airlines staff and also its sister airlines i.e. Air India, against premature retirements and supersessions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Such press reports are not based on facts.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Expenditure Tax

256. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the possibility of levying ex-