

The Working Group has estimated that approximately 81,000 persons are engaged in hand-processing units and approximately 4 lakh persons in hand-printing units. The report of the Working Group is being examined.

Pilots belonging to SC|ST in AI and IA

*279. SHRI SURAJ BHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) total number of pilots in the Indian Airlines and Air India separately, also indicating the total number of pilots belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, (separately);

(b) the reasons for shortage of S.C. and S.T. pilots; and

(c) what steps Government propose to wipe out the backlog of reserved quota of S.C and S.T. in this category in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) There are at present 413 pilots in Indian Airlines of whom 11 belong to Scheduled Castes and 2 to Scheduled Tribes communities. In Air India, there are 262 pilots as on date. Air India has no pilots belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities.

(b) and (c). It has not been possible to recruit more pilots belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities due to the non-availability of eligible/suitable candidates. However, efforts to induct pilots belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being made by keeping the reserved vacancies in Indian Airlines unfilled.

As regards Air India the main source of recruitment of pilots is Air Force and Indian Airlines as the fleet consists of only jet aircrafts.

Proposal to amend Essential Commodities Act for making provision for Summary Trial without Right of Appeal.

*282. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to bring an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 making provision for summary trial without the right of appeal; and

(b) if so, the reasons for bringing this legislation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is under consideration of the Government to amend some of the existing provisions in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. As the amendments to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 are still at proposal stage, it is not desirable in the public interest to spell out the reasons for bringing out the changes. A Bill to carry out the amendments is likely to be introduced in the current session of Parliament.

Off loading of Passengers from A.I.

*283. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in Indian Express dated 2-9-80 about the off loading of passengers from Air India even though the passengers tickets were confirmed and re-confirmed;

(b) the number of occasion when the Air India had to resort to off-loading during the last 3 months in India with dates and the number of passengers off loaded on each occasion;