

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) During the last five years, no aeroplane has been purchased from either Airbus Company or Boeing Company by Air India and Indian Airlines.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has proposed to acquire 43 new aircraft for replacement of the entire fleet of old aircraft and for capacity expansion.

Air India has also plans to acquire new aircraft in order to phase out the older aircraft, rationalize its fleet and expand capacity. The proposal is yet to be received in the Ministry for Government approval.

Air Service Between Delhi and Ranchi

4043. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to connect the Jharkhand Capital Ranchi with New Delhi by a direct flight;

(b) whether there are any immediate plans for providing more air services from Jharkhand; and

(c) whether any private airlines are planning to start their services for Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) Indian Airlines operates a daily service on Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi and return route. During summers, in view of high temperatures and short runway at Patna, which results in load penalty, this service has been rerouted to operate on Mumbai-Delhi-Ranchi-Patna and return route from 30th March till 31st July, 2003. Thus, a non-stop service between Ranchi and Delhi is available from 30th March to 31st July, 2003.

(b) Indian Airlines has presently no plans for providing more air services to/from Jharkhand.

(c) Airline operators are free to operate air services to any places within the country including Jharkhand depending upon the traffic demand and their commercial Judgement subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.