

(c) by when a)! the proposed new planes will be in position with the Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) For the immediate capacity requirement, Indian Airlines is in the process of acquiring on dry lease basis five B-737-200 and 2 A320 aircraft. Further, Indian Airlines proposes to acquire 3A300 B4 aircraft from Air India.

#### **Re-Starting of Air Service between Delhi and Rajouri**

826. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot/Pawan Hans service existed between Rajouri and Delhi some years ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such service had been quite beneficial for the geographically cut off people and the forces operating in Poonch and Rajouri Sectors; and

(c) whether Government propose to restart such service or an alternative to that as the infrastructure for the same is still intact in Rajouri?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Only Vayudoot Limited was earlier operating Dornier DO-228 service on the route Delhi/Jammu/Rajouri/Jammu/ Delhi.

(c) Shortage of smaller capacity aircraft and other operational/commercial constraints do not permit Indian Airlines operation, of services to Rajouri. Private Operators are, however, free to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

#### **Rat menace in AI Flights**

827. SHRI-V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India Mumbai-Chennai-Kualaumpur flight returned to base minutes after taking off from Mumbai airport on 26th October, 2000 night on complaints from passengers about the rodents on board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps the Ministry of Civil Aviation would take to ensure that rodent rat-infested flights are not operated in future?