

(vi) compensation for lost/damaged baggage in line with the leading airlines of the world; (vii) computerised check-in at most Indian airports, (viii) launching of a joint frequent flyer programme called the "Flying Returns" in June 1994 which enables the members to accumulate the mileage points for their travel on both the airlines.

Revival of Silchar-Guwahati-Silchar-Agartala Air Service

451. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air services between Silchar-Guwahati-Silchar-Agartala were stopped long ago;

(b) whether the Task Force constituted by the Civil Aviation Ministry has recommended to re-start both the services in the interest of public but no action has so far been taken; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the Task Force or whether Government is taking any step for the restart of the above services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In para 5.3.4.13 of its Report, the Task Force had observed that "As regards air linkages, the State Authorities and local Representatives impressed upon the need for Silchar to be linked to Calcutta and Guwahati on a daily basis. Also the Airlink between Silchar and Agartala needs to be re-introduced." Operation of this service depends on commercial viability and operators are free to operate any route in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Disposal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.