

Quantum of traffic at Amritsar Airport

*387. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of outgoing and incoming passengers traffic per week at the time of taking a decision to declare Amritsar (Raja Sansi) Airport as an International Airport;

(b) the average passenger traffic going abroad therefrom; and

(c) the normal timings of taking off the flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Although Amritsar airport has not been declared as an international airport, Indian Airlines, Air India and Ariana Afghan operate flights to international destinations from this airport. The quantum of outgoing and incoming passenger traffic at the time of commencing operations to international destinations was 196 and 191 per week respectively.

(b) According to the latest information available, the average number of passengers going abroad per week is 63 by Indian Airlines and 26 by Ariana Afghan airlines. Air India operates flights ex-Amritsar to Delhi to connect overseas destinations and carried 60 passengers in June, 1998.

(c) The flight timings of scheduled flights going abroad from Amritsar airport is as under.

Indian Airlines - 18.10 hrs. to Sharjah (twice weekly)

Ariana Afghans Airlines - 02.30 hrs. to Kabul (thrice weekly)

Air India - 01.45 hrs. to Delhi (twice weekly).

Transfer of funds for centrally sponsored schemes directly to the Panchayat Administration

*388. SHRI JOYANTA ROY:
SHRI DEBABRATA
BISWAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has objected to the Central proposal for the transfer of funds for all Centrally Sponsored Schemes pertaining to subjects like agriculture and rural development direct to the Panchayat Administration without the intervention of the State Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal reiterated his Government's stand in his meeting with the Prime Minister at New Delhi on 19th May, 1998;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have decided to rescind the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):

(a) An exercise has been done in the Planning Commission on the issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States. A note prepared in this regard was circulated to all State/Union Territory Governments, and to the concerned Central Ministries/Department for their comments. After considering their comments a revised proposal, including the modalities for transfer of funds, is being prepared for the consideration of the National Development Council.

In this context, it may be mentioned that no communication has been received in the Planning Commission from the Government of West Bengal regarding transfer of funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes pertaining to subjects like