

context of the market environment. The Committee recommended a financial Strategy of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees. Of this, Rs. 475 crores is to be provided by the Government. This amount will be spent on strengthening of the Balance Sheet with improved debt equity ratio and thus enabling Indian Airlines to access the capital market.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Steps taken by Indian Airlines to cut costs and reduce its staff strength are given below:—

- (i) Closure of off-line stations and reduction in booking offices;
- (ii) Reduction in overtime; (iii) Ban on sponsorship of events and provisions of free tickets in large numbers; (iv) Ban on recruitment; (v) Drastic cut in the expenditure on office buildings;
- (vi) Rationalisation of transport and canteen facilities; (vii) Freeze on capital expenditure; (viii) Reduction in frequencies of loss making routes.

Clearance of Tata Airlines Project

3680. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have cleared the TATA Airline Project with 40% foreign equity participation;
- (b) the details of the project, and the foreign equity participation, indicating the foreign collaboration and how far it would be in the form of import of technology and know-how; and
- (c) how far the collaboration is in conformity with the revised Aviation Policy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) In January, 1998 M/s Tata Industries submitted a proposal to Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for foreign equity of 40%

amounting to Rs. 332 crores in M/s Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. by issue and allotment of equity shares upto a maximum of Rupee equivalent of US \$83.00 million (around Rs.332 crores) to Foreign Institutional Investors. The proposal also involved technical collaboration by M/s Singapore Airlines. The proposal envisages a fleet of 18 aircraft in 5 years. The Technical Service Agreement Fee amounted to Rs. 197 crores (US \$49.25 million) to be paid over 5 years. This proposal is under consideration of FIPB.

(c) This is under examination.

Naming of new international airport at Ernakulam

3681. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new international airport near Ernakulam is nearing completion;

(b) whether Government have received any representation recently about naming this airport after Adi-Shankaracharya as his birth place is very close to the airport; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) An airport of international standards is being developed near Ernakulam.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A view will be taken in the matter after due consideration.

Commissioning of new Domestic Terminal at Delhi Airport

3682. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the new Domestic Terminal at Delhi Airport was tendered to be commissioned and completed;

(b) whether there is any delay in its commissioning, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it has been designed to have Aero-Bridges as in Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai Domestic Airports; and by when they will be installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The domestic departure terminal I-A at Delhi airport, affected by fire in October, 1996 was scheduled to be completed by December, 1997. The civil and electrical works of this building were completed in January, 1998. Thereafter, licence fee, and terms of allotment were sorted out with Indian Airlines. During this period interior decoration of the terminal building and Restaurant were undertaken. The building was commissioned on 2nd July, 1998.

(c) The departure terminal I-A at IGI airport has not been designed to have aerobridges because of operational constraints.

Private air taxi operation in the States of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab

3683. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in the States of Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir linked with air services, through Private Air Taxis;

(b) the details thereof, flight-wise/day-wise and district-wise;

(c) the remaining districts which are proposed to be linked with air services in Assam during the year 1998-99; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No place is connected by private airlines in Punjab.

Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Jorhat in Assam are airlinked by private airlines service. While Sahara India Airlines operates 4 days-a-week Delhi/Guwahati/Dibrugarh/Guwahati/Delhi and 3 days-a-week Delhi/Guwahati/Delhi services, Jet Airways operates a daily Delhi/Guwahati/Bagdogra/Delhi; 5 days-a-week Calcutta/Guwahati/Calcutta; and 2 days-a-week Calcutta/Jorhat/Calcutta services.

Srinagar and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir are connected by a daily Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar/Delhi flight of Jet Airways.

(c) and (d) As per Government Policy, airlines are free to operate/provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

Maintenance Service to International Carriers

3684. DR. MOHAN BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has approached all major international carriers offering to take-up engineering services including major maintenance to earn additional revenue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and whether any agreement has been signed between Air India and International Airlines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Air India is at present providing Engineering services as part of Ground Handling Agreements to 16 international airlines. In addition, it has offered Engineering Services to 17 other international airlines who are having equipment similar to that of Air India. However, no agreement has been signed so far by Air India with these airlines.