

Problems faced by passengers at Ahmedabad Airport

*195. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights of Indian Airlines and other private Airlines that are coming to Ahmedabad Airport daily or bi-weekly;

(b) whether it is a fact that the terminal booking and departure wing is overcrowded in the morning and evening and there is not enough space and chairs resulting in passengers standing and waiting for departure call;

(c) whether it is also a fact that baggage reclaim area and conveyer belt is very small resulting in hardships to passengers;

(d) whether Government has any proposal for fresh planning of Ahmedabad Airport; and

(e) whether there are any norms for airports related to air traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) The following flights are being operated to Ahmedabad Airport at present:—

— 4 daily, three tri-weekly and two bi-weekly flights totalling 41 flights per week of Indian Airlines.

— 3 daily flights totalling 21 flights per week of Jet Airways.

— Thrice weekly flights of Damania NEPC Skyline Airways.

— Twice weekly flights of Sahara India Airlines.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Airports Authority of India has prepared a Master Plan for developing a new terminal complex with a capacity to handle 2000 domestic and 1000 international passengers at Ahmedabad Airport.

(e) The terminal buildings are developed keeping in view the maximum number of flights per hour, the number of passengers per aircraft and visitors who receive and see off the passengers.

Action plan to promote tourism in the country

*196. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up an action plan to promote tourism in the country;

(b) whether some new tourism circuits have also been created for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to lay emphasis on domestic tourism and off season tourism; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) The National Action Plan in 1992 identified eleven tourist circuits and five destinations for intensive developments to promote tourism in the country. These are as under:—

TRAVEL CIRCUITS.

1. Kulu-Manali-Leh
2. Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orchha-Khajuraho
3. Bagdogra-Sikkim-Darjeeling-Kalimpong
4. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark
5. Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar-Tirupati
6. Madras-Mamallapuram-Pondicherry
7. Rishikesh-Narender Nagar-Gangotri-Badrinath
8. Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Omkareshwar-Mandu
9. Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer

10. Sindhudurg-Vijaynagar-Circuit.
 11. Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan.
- DESTINATIONS.

1. Lakshadweep Islands
2. Andaman Islands
3. Manali (Solang-Nalah)
4. Bekal Beach
5. Muttukadu Beach
6. Kangra (Pong Dam)

In addition during 1995-96. the following additional circuits were identified for intensified promotion.

- (1) The Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- (2) Chandigarh-Himachal Pradesh winter circuit.
- (3) Kerala backwaters and hills circuits.

Efforts are being made to promote these circuits in India and abroad, to develop infrastructure within the circuit and also to optimally utilise the existing infrastructure.

In addition, continuous and concerted efforts are made by the Department of Tourism, Government of India in association with the State Governments and various segments of the tourism industry to lay emphasis on domestic tourism and off season tourism. These efforts include development and augmentation of tourism infrastructure by provision of central financial assistance for construction of tourist lodges, wayside amenities, Yatri Niwases, etc., improvement of tourist facilities and services, production of publicity material such as brochures, films, etc. aggressive marketing efforts through the offices of Department of Tourism in India and abroad and organisation of familiarisation tours.

For off-season tourism, the Department, in association with concerned State Governments, are promoting monsoon packages in Goa and

Kerala, and the Winter Circuits in Himachal Pradesh.

Fraud in Central Bank and State Bank of India

*197. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an attempt was made to defraud the Central Bank and State Bank of India of a sum of Rs. 300 crores (vide 'The Times of India', dated the 26th April, 1996);

(b) if so, the findings of C.B.I. inquiry into the matter; and

(c) the action taken against the officers concerned?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government have seen the news item referred to in the Question. Reserve Bank of India have reported that the Calcutta (Entally) branch of Central Bank of India opened a current account in the name of M/s Yonex Food Pvt. Ltd. on 1st March 1995. On 24th April, 1995 the company deposited a cheque for Rs. 300 crore favouring itself purportedly issued by M/s Abel Corporation and drawn on Calcutta (M.G. Road) branch of State Bank of India. The branch sent the cheque through MICR clearing to SBI instead of presenting it in the "high value clearing". It also made an advance of Rs. 12 lakh unauthorisedly against the cheque which was still to be cleared. The cheque however turned out to be a fake one and the leaf pertained to a cheque book issued by State Bank of India to a savings bank account holder who had closed the account. The fake cheque was returned by SBI unpaid.

Departmental proceedings have also been initiated against the Branch Manager of Central Bank of India. Central Bureau of Investigation have also registered a case on 28.4.1995 and the investigation has not yet been completed.