

eminent with leaders of various political parties.

New aviation policy

*1490. SHRI VIRENDRA
KATARIA: SHRI
RAHASBIHARI

BARIK: SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to formulate a comprehensive new aviation policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new aviation policy;

(c) the date by when the new policy is likely to be adopted; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

³ THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Aviation policy is evolved/amended on a continuing basis, keeping in view the experience gained and requirements of trade, commerce and travel & tourism.

विदेशी ऋणों की अदायगी हेतु भुगतान की गई धनराशि

1491. श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री:

श्री वेद प्रकाश पी० गोयल:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1995 में विदेशी ऋणों की अदायगी हेतु भुगतान किए गए 920 करोड़ (9.2 बिलियन) अमरीकी डालर की तुलना में वर्ष 1996 में इस प्रयोजनार्थ 1060 करोड़ (10.6 बिलियन) अमरीकी डालर का भुगतान किया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि वर्ष 1996—2000 की अवधि के दौरान अनुमानतः 4330 करोड़ (43.3 बिलियन) अमरीकी डालर की अदायगी की जाएगी; और

(ग) उक्त राशि को अदा करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

वित्त मंत्री तथा कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) 1994-95 और 1995-96 के दौरान कुल ऋण शोधन अदायगियों (मूलधन और

ब्याज) क्रमशः 10.995 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर और 12.6 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर (अनन्तिम) होने का अनुमान है।

(ख) 1996-97 में विदेशी ऋण पर कुल ऋण शोधन अदायगियों के अनन्तिम अनुमान 14.5 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर है। 1997-98 से आगे के लिए कुल ऋण शोधन अदायगियां नये ऋणों के स्तर, विनिमय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ब्याज दरों पर निर्भर करेंगी।

(ग) सरकार एक विवेक सम्पन्न ऋण प्रबन्ध कार्य नीति का अनुसरण कर रही है जिसका उद्देश्य ऋण शोधन अनुपात को सुविधाजनक स्तरों तक कम करना है। इसके अन्तर्गत निर्यातों और अन्य चालू प्राप्तियों की वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहित करना, कुल ऋण की वृद्धि में कमी करना, ऋण के मंहगे और अल्पकालिक घटक की वृद्धि में कमी करना और विदेशी निवेश जैसे गैर-ऋण स्रोतों के अन्तर्ग्रहणों को बढ़ावा देना शामिल है।

Improving voting percentage of elections

1492. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to take any steps to improve voting percentage in elections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) the Election Commission of India has launched a National Voter Awareness Campaign, one of the objects of which is

to increase awareness of the right of franchise.

Commissioning of North-Eastern Institute for Health and Medical Sciences

1493. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute for Health and

Medical Sciences at Shillong has started functioning;

(b) if not, by when it will start functioning; and

(c) whether Government are proposing to create a central pool of seats for Post Graduate Medical Education for the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Civic works have been undertaken for providing 30 bedded hospital facilities for starting services in the Cardiology and Gastroenterology etc.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Infant Mortality in Orissa

1494. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the trend of infant mortality rate in Orissa compared to all India average; and

(b) what special steps are being taken to reduce infant mortality in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM EQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The infant mortality rate is showing a declining trend. The estimated infant mortality rate for Orissa is higher than that for India. The estimates of infant mortality rate for India and Orissa for the last 10 years are given in the statement (*see below*).

(b) The Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme is being implemented in all the districts of Orissa. Under the Programme immunisation, prophylaxis against vitamin-A deficiency, appropriate management of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections and essential newborn care are being provided to reduce infant mortality.

Statement

*Annual Estimates of Infant Mortality Rate
India and Orissa, 1985—1994*

Year	India**	Orissa
1985	97	132
1986	96	123
1987	95	126
1988	94	122
1989	91	121
1990	80	122
1991	80*	124
1992	79*	115
1993	74*	110
1994	74*	103

** — Exclude Mizoram.

* — Excludes Jammu & Kashmir and Mozoram. Source : Sample Registration System.

Reconstitution of the Expert Committee on Tobacco

1495. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:
SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR:
SHRI HANUMANATHA RAO:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH
KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had considered the possibility of changing the composition of the present Expert Committee on Tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the present Expert Committee on Tobacco;

(d) whether the Expert Committee on Tobacco consists mainly of doctors and others involved in anti-tobacco writings and pronouncements;

(e) if so, whether there was a demand from the trade unions and farmers' union for their representation into the Expert Committee. if so, details thereof; and