

forts, palaces, havelies, etc, if converted into hotels can be classified as heritage hotels, thereby providing a new dimension to tourism to the country. So far 22 hotels with 702 rooms have been classified under the Heritage category.

(c) It is not practical to estimate the impact of the scheme on tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings separately as tourist traffic is guided by a number of factors. There is no doubt however that these grand buildings do appeal to the imagination of foreign tourists.

Payment of salary to IA staff

292. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
3HAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines had to report to over-drafting for paying the salaries of staff and employees during recent months as reported in the Pioneer of 13th October, 1994; and

(b) if so, under what circumstances and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION
AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Decision to cut operations on uneconomical routes by IA

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-BHAJIRAO
SHINDE: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION AND
TOURISM be pleased to state:

the Indian Airlines has cut operations on uneconomical routes in India and seek more flights in overseas sector with a view to blending social responsibility with commercial viability; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the routes on which operations are to be cut or augmented under this decision?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL
AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI
GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b)
No decision has yet been taken by
Indian Airlines in this regard.

Scheme for promotion of tourism

294. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND
TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any uniform scheme for promotion of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether places in West Bengal have been brought under the purview of such scheme, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL
AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI
GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c)
For development of tourism in the country, a National Action plan for tourism was evolved and presented in Parliament in May, 1992. The Action Plan stipulates the priorities of the Government for development of tourism and strategy for its achievement. The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments including West Bengal in respect of projects/schemes prioritised in consultation with them for intensive development of tourism facilities, development of Special Tourism Areas, diversification of tourism products, promotion of fairs and festivals, development of infrastructure for domestic tourism etc.

देश में निजी विमान कंपनियों का प्रचालन

295. श्री संजय दयाल सिंह : क्या मांगर निधान और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में इस समय कौन-कौन सी निजी विमान कंपनियां कार्यरत हैं और उनकी विमानन-क्षमतायें क्या-क्या हैं ; और