

(c) Yes, Sir. The following steps are taken to maintain the punctuality of flights:

1. Close monitoring of on-time performance.
2. Rationalisation of schedule incorporating revised block time and increased ground time as cushion between flights.
3. Review of action taken for rectification of snags at regions as well as headquarters.
4. Close interaction with manufacturers of spares for timely delivery of supplies.
5. Provision of stand-by aircraft.

(d) Air fares in India are one of the lowest as compared to other countries in the world.

Shortage of luxury coaches and cars for tourism

20. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of imported luxury coaches and cars required for tourism; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the fact that there is a demand for luxury coaches and cars required for tourism, the Government has recently by a Notification allowed a one time import of cars and coaches at concessional Customs duty by specified importers viz. State Tourism Corporations, classified hotels, tour operators and travel agencies approved by Director General Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Setting up of an airport at Kargil

21. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct an airport at Kargil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A fair weather airstrip belonging to Air Force with dimensions of 7974 × 150 ft. already exists at Kargil.

Cut in seating capacity of Indian Airlines

22. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to effect a 7 per cent cut in the seating capacity of their aeroplanes;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage private airlines to make good the shortage in the accommodation; and

(d) what will be the effect of Government's decision of 7 per cent cut in the seating capacity on the financial viability of the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve punctuality,

provide standby aircraft capacity and to send aircraft for maintenance according to schedule Indian Airlines has reduced the frequencies of its services on some sectors effective 1st August, 1992.

(c) According to guidelines for air taxi operations the operators are at liberty to serve any sector where there is demand for air services.

(d) Consequent to reduction in seating capacity the net loss declined to Rs. 5.95 crores in August, 1992 as compared to Rs. 14.69 crores in July, 1992 since the load and seat factors improved resulting in improved financial performance of Indian Airlines.

Expansion of Airport at Vijayawada, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam

23. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any fresh proposal to expand the airports at Vijayawada, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating their present stage; and

(c) what are the reasons for undue delay in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The airport at Visakhapatnam belongs to Indian Navy, National Airports Authority (NAA) has no proposal to develop it. As far as Vijayawada is concerned, NAA is unable to take up the development owing to financial constraints. In the case of Tirupati, the development project would be taken up by NAA after the ongoing discussions with the Tirupati Tirumala Devasthanam on their financial participation are completed.

Development of Buddhist centre in Andhra Pradesh with Japanese aid

24. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include the Buddhist centres in Andhra Pradesh for development under Japanese aid/loan scheme;

(b) if so, what is the stage of its consideration; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not including them under such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government has to prepare a project proposal for consideration.

Pending proposals for development of tourism in Andhra Pradesh

25. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposals that are pending with Central Government from Andhra Pradesh for developing tourism in that State; and

(b) what are the details of their progress?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Fourteen proposals from the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been received, only in November 1992, for developing tourism in the State.

Expenditure incurred on airlines

26. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure incurred on various airlines every year during the past three years and what is