

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains three airports at Jaipur, Udaipur and Kota and three Civil Enclaves at Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. All these airports are operational. At present, AAI do not have any plan to construct new airports in the State of Rajasthan due to lack of traffic demand. Besides, the State Government of Rajasthan maintains 26 airstrips at Alwar, Abu Road, Bharatpur, Bhawli, Bundi, Bahai, Banaswara, Dholpur, Faina, Gadra Road, Isarda, Jawai Sumerpur, Jhalwar, Jhunjhunu, Lalgarth, Malpura, Mathonia, Merta Road, Nagaur, Shahpur, Sirodhi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Falna, Pali and Sojat.

Purchase of New Aircraft by Air India

†1524. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of aircraft with Air India in the country which are engaged in carrying passengers;
- (b) the number of extra aircrafts actually needed at present;
- (c) whether Government propose to purchase passenger aircrafts from other countries to meet this requirement; and
- (d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The fleet of Air India consists of 27 aircraft (including four aircraft on dry lease).

(b) to (d) In view of the disinvestment, it was found desirable that the decisions regarding major capital expenditure and purchase of new aircraft be deterred. However, Air India have taken 4 A310-300 aircraft on dry lease with a view to augment its routes and passengers carrying capacity to meet the short term requirement.

Special concession offered by banks

1525. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 541 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th April, 2001 and state:

- (a) the Boars of how many nationalized banks, Indian private banks,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Foreign banks which have given special concessions / relaxations to particular regions, with the names of the banks;

- (b) the regions which have been given special concessions; and
- (c) the details of the concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) With a view to augment the credit flow to the North-Eastern States, Hon'ble Union Finance Minister has held a meeting on 19/10/2001 at Shillong and has made the following announcement;

1. Interest of all loans given at higher rates will be reset to bring them in tune with current rates.
2. In case of Non Performing Assets accounts of State Government/State Public Sector Undertakings/State Guaranteed loans, if the interest is paid then the balance amount will be rescheduled.
3. All small Non Performing Assets loans where the principal amount was Rs. 25,000/or less and which have been outstanding for more than 3 years as on 31st March, 2001, interest will be waived and the case will be settled at principal amount.
4. Credit Deposit ratio in North East is 30% against all India average of 58%. It will be increased to bring it at par with national average in 3 years. During the current year, banks will disburse additional Rs. 1,500 crore. State Level Bankers Committee and District Level Coordination Committee will immediately give revised targets to banks.
5. Rural industrial programme of Small Industrial Development Bank of India, which is presently being run in two districts of Assam, will be extended to all the states of North East.
6. Industrial Finance Corporation of India will support Tourism in North East through Tourism Finance Corporation of India.
7. Small Industrial Development Bank of India National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development will step up micro credit programme to cover at least 1000 Self Help Groups during this year.
8. Small Industrial Development Bank of India will consider One Time Settlement proposal of Industrial Development Corporation of Mizoram and Nagaland.

Financial institutions and banks have been advised to implement the above announcements and monitor the implementation thereof in State Level Bankers Committee meetings periodically.

FDI in Retail Trading

1526. SHRIRAM JETHMALANI:
SHRIRAMDASAGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to allow 100 per cent FDI in the 180 billion dollar retail trading sector as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 16th November, 2001; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the proposal has been approved by the Group of Ministers (GoM);

(c) whether lots of strings are attached thereto indicating minimum investment required for opening single outlet/joint venture with FDI restrictions for foreign entrants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) As per the extant policy, FDI is not permitted in retail trading. No proposal for allowing FDI in retail sector is presently before the Group of Ministers on FDI.

New growth centres in industrially backward areas

1527. SHRIMATI CHANDRAKALAPANDEY:
SHRIDIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of "new growth centre scheme" in industrially backward areas;

(b) the number of such growth centres envisaged along with proposed locations;

(c) the number of such growth centres which have become functional; and