

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government extends financial assistance to State Governments for development of tourist centres on the basis of specific proposals received from them, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

The Central Government have extended financial assistance for tourism projects in Mahabalipuram, Uthagamandalam, Courtallam, Kaniya Kumari, Madurai and Yercaud. The scheme for tourist cottages and cafeteria at Kodai Kanal has been prioritised for Central financial assistance during 1991-92.

Hike in Coal Prices

65. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the prices of coal and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the total accumulated deficit at present of the Coal India Limited and what steps are being taken by Government to overcome it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGAUDAR): (a) The last revision of price of coal produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) based on the indices of June, 1988 and January, 1989 were made effective from 1-1-1989 and 24-1-1989 respectively.

Since then there has been substantial increase in the cost of production due to increase in the cost of inputs like wages on account of NCWA-IV, VDA, explosive, POL and rate of interest etc. Therefore, CIL and SCCL

have submitted proposals to increase the price of coal produced by them. No decision has been taken by the Government so far.

(b) Accumulated losses suffered by Coal India Limited as on 31-3-1990 were of the order of Rs. 2245 crores.

Steps taken by the Government to reduce the losses include:

(a) Coal price updation w.e.f. 1-1-1989 in level with the cost of inputs;

(b) Setting target and assisting CIL to implement plans for opening new mines, upgrading technology and improving efficiency;

(c) Helping CIL to overcome constraints in availability of equipments and essential inputs to achieve better production;

(d) Delegation of powers to CIL through the instrument of Memorandum of Understanding.

(e) Assisting CIL in better sales realisation and recovery of outstanding dues.

Restoration of air service between New Delhi and Allahabad

66. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any air link for passengers between New Delhi—Allahabad—New Delhi;

(b) whether any such air link existed earlier; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be restored and; if not, the reasons therefor?

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