

100 crores. Vayudoot is currently incurring losses at about Rs. 2.70 crores per month.

(b) The main reasons for the losses are: aged and uneconomic fleet; short haul operations, unremunerative fare structure, excessive expansion of the operations and overstaffing.

(c) There is hardly any scope for Government providing budget support or subsidy to organisations in the civil aviation sector. It is imperative that they operate on commercial principles and generate resources of their own to finance their operations and expansion.

(d) No, Sir.

Proposal to purchase power from Nepal

302. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA

PATIL:

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI
KENIA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase surplus power from Nepal; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what is outcome of recent talks between Prime Minister of India and Nepal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) During the 1st Meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on Water Resources held in December, 1938, Nepal indicated possibilities of additional power supply to India upto 200 MW from their future projects, India had agreed to absorb this additional power subject to agreement on tariff and operational aspects.

(b) During the recent talks between the Prime Ministers of India and Nepal it was agreed in principle by India to purchase surplus power from Nepalese hydroelectric projects subject to negotiations and agreement on prices.

Training plan for Pilots

303. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pilots of Indian Airlines are not happy with the new training plan to make them available for Airbus-300 instead of Airbus-320; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The movement of seventeen P2 pilots from A-320 to A-300 is in accordance with the career Profession Pattern settled between the Indian Commercial Pilots Association and the management of the Indian Airlines.

Clearance to Jodhpur Solar Power Plant

304. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jodhpur Solar Power Plant has not been cleared by the Central Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up a solar power plant near Jodhpur can be taken up for implementation after it is cleared from the techno-economic angle and all necessary inputs have been tied up.

Setting up of new power projects in West Bengal

305. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has been repeatedly requesting the Central Government to set up