

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission has imposed a ceiling of 8% on the growth of Indian Airlines' capacity during the Seventh Plan period. Attempts are being made to relax the ceiling. Apart from the ceiling, Indian Airlines suffered from capacity shortage due to a number of accidents and also late arrival of leased aircraft, than planned.

(d) Indian Airlines has inducted a number of aircraft on lease and from April, 1989 onwards, the 19 Airbus A 320 aircraft will be inducted into its fleet in a phased manner.

Funds for Development of Hyderabad Railway Station

138. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN
REDDY:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for improving the Hyderabad and other Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh as Model Stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that no amount has been sanctioned for the development of Hyderabad railway station though it has been selected as a Model Station under the Model Station Scheme;

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof; and

(d) in what way the time lost would be made up in improving the facilities at the Hyderabad railway station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN- THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupati and Waltair railway stations in Andhra Pradesh have been selected to be developed as Model Stations. Work at all the stations except at Hyderabad has commenced.

(b) to (d) The work at Hyderabad station is proposed to be taken up in phases. In phase-I, works costing Rs. 1.50 crores have been proposed and will be started in 1989-90.

Membership of Commonwealth to Pakistan

139. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan had approached India to help her joining the Commonwealth;

(b) whether Pakistan has been provided Membership of the Commonwealth; if not, by when she is likely to achieve such membership; and

(c) to what extent Pakistan's joining Commonwealth is likely to help in improving relations with Pakistan by the Commonwealth countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Without making a formal proposal, from time to time Pakistan has been expressing interest in rejoining the Commonwealth.

(b) Pakistan is not a member of the Commonwealth. There are no clear indications at present as to when this will be possible.

(c) This remains to be seen.

Delay in Flights of 1A during the Last Six Months

140. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP
SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines have not been able to maintain their schedules for the past 6 months;

(b) if so, what has been the averages of delayed flights during the last six months, as compared to the same period in 1987-88; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the punctuality of departures of various flights by the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) During the period August, 1988 to January, 1989, 44.66% flights of Indian Airlines were delayed or cancelled as compared to 29.99% during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) The following steps have been taken in order to improve punctuality:—

- (i) Overall utilisation of Boeing aircraft has been reduced so as to provide standby capacity at base stations.
- (ii) Additional aircrafts have been leased from various sources.
- (iii) Punctuality of flights has been constantly monitored at various levels.

National Tourism Board

141. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR: SHRI BIR
BHADRA PRATAP SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to U.Q. 1798 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1988 and State:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism; if so, whether Government propose to set up a National Tourism Board, on the lines of the Railway Board, in order to give a boost to tourism and hotel industry in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that clearance of some Agencies/Departments have been accorded for the setting up of such a board; and

(c) if so, to what extent the tourism industry is likely to be benefited after the setting up of such a board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the National

Committee on Tourism "have been examined and a number of them have been accepted. However, a final decision on the establishment of a National Tourism Board is yet to be taken in consultation with different Departments.

Discussion of SAARC Summit

142. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what subjects were discussed at the summit of SAARC countries held at Islamabad held in December, 1988;

(b) whether the question of combating the menace of terrorism was also discussed;

(c) what are the results of these discussions and to what extent the meeting was successful;

(d) whether any new pacts were signed on the occasion for promoting regional cooperation among SAARC countries; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; (PROF. K.K. TEWARI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See below*).

(d) No, Sir,

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

At the Fourth SAARC Summit field in Islamabad from 29—31 December, 1988, the 'Heads of State' or Government discussed a wide range of subjects concerning cooperation among the member countries following which the following major decisions were taken :

- (i) Education was included as an area of cooperation and a Technical Committee set up to work out a programme of work in this area.