

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a marginal drop of 1.5 per cent in the operating revenue of Air India during the second quarter of 1985-86 as compared to the corresponding period last year. This drop in traffic was immediately after the 'Kanishka' accident and consequent intensification of Security measures.

(c) Air India has introduced marketing initiatives in areas where the traffic drop was more pronounced and in recent weeks, the traffic has shown signs of improvement.

Base for operation of flights abroad by the Air India

1817. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that except Air India no other airlines have chosen London as a base for operation of its flights abroad; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as operation from London has been found to be costly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Government have no precise information regarding other carriers having their base in London. As regards Air India, a sub-base at London has been set up to meet the operational, cabin crew and ground handling requirements of the flights over the Atlantic.

University Grants Commission's Assistance for Construction of Quarters

1818. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission gives

financial assistance in the form of grants to the colleges for the construction of quarters for teachers and other staff;

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

(c) what are the conditions on which the grant is given; and

(d) what is the amount of the grant given during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission has been providing development assistance to colleges. According to the guidelines framed by the Commission, a college with a total enrolment of 300 students was eligible for a total grant of Rs. 4 lakhs in the Sixth Plan. This ceiling was raised depending upon the enrolment, the maximum being Rs. 7.50 lakhs for colleges with an enrolment of 2000 or more. The Commission had suggested that upto 35 per cent part of this assistance could be utilised for construction of buildings including students hostel and staff quarters for teachers.

(c) In respect of building programmes the Commission had suggested that the Plans and estimates should be prepared by the local PWD or registered architects and that construction may be assigned to Public Works Departments. In case the work is assigned to contractors, details of tenders invited etc. should be sent to the Commission.

The Commission's assistance for all building programme was restricted to 50 per cent of the approved cost within the ceilings of development assistance.

(d) The grants sanctioned by the Commission for construction of staff