

(b) whether Government have given recognition to the Federation; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Passengers carried by the Indian Airlines

3045. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers carried by the Indian Airlines year-wise, during the last three years and that estimated during the current financial year;

(b) whether these figures show a decreasing trend in the passenger traffic;

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

(d) what are the steps being taken to attract more passengers on the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 was 6.847 million, 7.669 million and 8.509 million respectively. It is estimated that during the current financial year

Indian Airlines will carry 9.425 million passengers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To attract more passengers Indian Airlines has:

(1) introduced promotional fares on certain routes;

(2) a programme of marketing and publicity overseas in collaboration with international agencies.

(3) computerised its reservations function;

(4) made efforts to provide improvements in flight and ground services.

Grant to All India Blind Relief Society of Dr. Bhagwan Dass Trust

3046. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given financial grant to the All India Blind Relief Society, Lajpat Nagar of Dr. Bhagwan Dass Trust, if so, the amount given; and

(b) whether all eye relief activities of the above society stands defunct, if so, whether Government propose to enquire into it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Grants released are given below:—

Name of the Institution/Organisation	Year	Amount released	Purpose
All India Blind Relief Society . .	55-56	Rs. 25,000	Construction & equipment.
Dr. Bhagwan Dass Charitable Trust	62-63	Rs. 50,000	Do.
Do.	63-64	Rs. 12,000	Do.
Do.	64-65	Rs. 1,000	Equipment.

(b) No, Sir. The Society is running an eye hospital. ENT facilities have also been added from 1st October, 1984.

Meet of inter-caste and inter community marriages on Thalassaemia

3047. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times, of the 12th November, 1985 that inter-caste and inter-community marriages can lessen the severity of a blood disease Thalassaemia; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pre-marital genetic counselling followed by avoidance of marriage among carriers is the only method to prevent this disease. Alternate method is to implement a programme of screening by ante-natal diagnosis for women at risk of having affected foetuses and use of therapeutic abortion in appropriate cases. The Indian Council of Medical Research has set up a Centre for the latter purpose at Bombay.

Trichy Airport as an International Airport

3048. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the Trichy airport into an international airport;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be opened for international traffic; and

(c) what amount has been earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Ticketless Travelling on Railways

3049. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids conducted by the Railway authorities to detect ticketless travelling during the last two years;

(b) the number of ticketless persons arrested;

(c) the details of action taken against these persons; and

(d) whether there has been any decline or increase in the number of ticketless travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVEAO SCINDIA):
(a) 4.94 lakh checks were conducted during 1983-84 and 1984-85.

(b) and (c) 82.82 lakh persons were detected travelling without ticket or with improper tickets and a sum of Rs. 1638.12 lakhs was realised from them as railway dues. 4.98 lakhs persons were prosecuted out of whom 2.61 lakhs were imprisoned in default of payment.

(d) Incidence of ticketless travel is not on the increase.

C.G.H.S. Doctors

3050. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of C.G.H.S. Doctors in the grade of Rs. 700—1300 and the names and qualifications of doctors who are likely to be promoted in the near future in the specialist grade of Rs. 1100—1800?