

Performance of Vayudoot services

1501. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHA-PARDE; Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Survey has been conducted on the performance of Vayudoot services, service-wise;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the service has become popular?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In an attempt, to improve operational results, Vayudoot after a survey, has withdrawn its services from discouraging sectors in the North. Eastern Region. Flights to Rupsi and Kamalpur have been withdrawn. The sector Gauhati/Kailashahar has been substituted by Agartala/Kailashahar. And the Gauhati/Shillong flight, has been extended to Silchar. With the rationalisation of the above routes, the load factor has improved. Similarly, services to Muzaffarpur was discontinued due to lack of traffic. Services to other sectors are proving to be popular.

Cartridges stolen from a goods train

1502. SHRI RAMACHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twelve crates containing cartridge, for military use were found stolen from a wagon of a goods train as per a news item published in the Indian Express dated the 4th July, 1982;

(b) if so, whether such cases of thefts of arms consignments are occurring frequently; and.

(c) what measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to ensure safety

of the army consignment and for also apprehending the culprits?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) A theft of some stores did take place from a goods wagon on 30-6-82. These stores were, however, not arms and ammunition but Canteen stores.

(b) No, Sir. However, occasional instances of theft have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(c) The question of further improving security measures for arms and ammunition consignments during transit is under active consideration in consultation with other Ministries/ Departments concerned.

Strike by Employees of Air India in London

1593. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the strike by employees of Air India in London, the cargo transport has been severely affected, and the flights have been delayed;

(b) what loss suffered so far by Air India due to the strike; and

(c) what steps have been taken to end the strike?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There has been no significant loss of revenue due to the strike.

(c) The local management has issued letters to the employees, explaining the disciplinary action taken against one of the employees. The Chairman of Air India has issued letters to those employees who are still on strike advising them to resume work. As on date, out of 356 employees, only 94 are on strike.