

Introduction of 'Executive Fares' by Indian Airlines

824. SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is going to introduce "Executive Fares" from 1st June, 1982;

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

(c) what would be the impact on the revenue side by introduction of the same?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines plans to introduce Executive Class on its Airbus aircraft from June/July 1982. The exact date of introduction is not yet decided.

(b) Executive Class passengers would be charged a fare amounting to 12½ per cent in excess of what is charged from standard class passengers.

Executive Class passengers will be provided additional facilities in the shape of physical convenience in regard to seat size, comfort leg space and the facility of 30 Kgs. of free baggage.

(c) There is a likelihood of a marginal addition to the revenue.

Steps to attract suitable persons for Armed Forces

825. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO KALMADI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the armed forces are facing a serious problem of getting enough people of the right calibre for officer jobs;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study into the problem and if so, what are details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the emoluments and other facilities for armed forces personnel are far short of offers in other organisations and private companies;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter to attract suitable persons to these services; and

(e) what is the number of women in the officer ranks of the three services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d) While there is shortage of officers in the Armed Forces at present, the overall quality of officers remains high.

2. Government is seized of the problem and efforts are being made to improve service conditions/career prospects of officers to attract appropriate material from amongst the best of the country's youth.

3. In order to make service in the Armed Forces more attractive, a comprehensive Cadre Review has been carried out which has enhanced the promotion prospects in all ranks of the Services. A large number of appointments at various levels have been upgraded. Selection Grade to 20 per cent of Officers of the rank of Major/Lt. Colonel and equivalent ranks in the Navy and Air Force has been introduced. There has been a significant enhancement in pensionary benefits and the facility of enhancement of leave has been extended to these officers. Apart from the above, Government have recently undertaken a vigorous publicity drive to highlight the attractive aspects of service in the Armed Forces. All the above-mentioned measures are expected to encourage young people to opt for a Military Career.