

Air India since June, 1979. With the commencement of Air India's services to Sharjah, Pushpaka Aviation continued to operate to Bombay-Sharjah-Bombay as an Associate of Air India in order to cater to the traffic demands of this sector. Air India have at present no spare capacity to step up the frequency on the Bombay-Sharjah-Bombay sector.

(b) Indian Airlines have at present no spare aircraft to operate on this sector.

Private airlines operating in India

*309. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many private airlines are operating from India as passenger oriented airways inside and outside India and what are the details thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to nationalise the private airlines; and

(c) if so, by when there are likely to be nationalised and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No private airline is operating passenger services within India. Two private airlines, viz., Pushpaka Aviation, Bombay and Huns Air Bombay are operating as Associates of Air India on Bombay-Sharjah-Bombay sector.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Operations by Pushpaka Aviation and Huns Air are complementary to Air India's operations to Sharjah in order to meet the traffic demands on the sector. However, as and when Air India is in a position, fleet-wise, to step up the frequency of their operations to Sharjah, the cases of Pushpaka Aviation and Huns Air operating to these sectors will be reviewed.

Ban on the import of Salbutamol

*310. DR. JOSEPH LEON

DSOUZA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA

HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the fact that indigenous producers have accumulated stocks of Salbutamol, large quantity of this drug is still being imported;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association has requested for immediate and absolute ban on the import of this drug;

(c) since when the request for banning the import of Salbutamol is pending with his Ministry;

(d) what are the main reasons on account of which the imports of this drug could not be banned so far; and

(e) what action Government have taken to impose a ban on the import of Salbutamol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) There is information of some accumulation of stocks of Salbutamol but this is not due to any excessive imports.

(b) to (e) On the basis of representation received, this item was taken out of Open General Licence and included in the list of Restricted items for Actual Users and in the banned list for export houses in the Import Policy, on 18th November, 1981. The Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association has again represented on 12th February, 1982 for a ban on import of this item. This suggestion is being examined in connection with the formulation of Import Policy for 1982-83.