

### **Collaboration of Indian Hotels with Hiltons**

1820. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Investment Board has approved the collaboration of Indian Hotels with Hiltons;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this collaboration is likely to adversely affect the Indian Hotel Industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The Foreign Investment Board has not approved any collaboration agreement between M/s. Hilton and any Indian Hotel Company. However, clearance had been given by Government in 1968 to an agreement between M/s. Shiv Sagar Estates and Hilton Hotels International for the setting up of a hotel at Bombay. This agreement did not become operative and the project was also abandoned by the promoters.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### **Air India employees stranded at Singapore**

1821. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of Air India employees who were on the holiday concession Air India Tickets in Singapore recently were stranded for a long time and did not have enough money to pay for their boarding and lodging; and

(b) whether Government propose to issue instructions to Air India to ensure their return before permitting

their employees to avail of these leave concession tickets?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that recently a number of employees of Air India who went to Singapore on their free/concessional passages were stranded at Singapore for want of seats on Air India flights. This is due to the fact that free and concessional passages are granted according to Air India Passage Regulations on a subject-to-load basis. As these free and concessional passages are subject to load basis, no definite bookings are given to them either for their outward or return journey.

As stated above, free and concessional passages granted to employees proceeding on leave are subject to load basis and as such the return cannot be ensured and employees cannot be accommodated when there are fare paying passengers. However, when return flights on any particular sector are heavily booked, steps are taken to warn staff well in advance by staff notices not to travel on those sectors. It may be added that to all the staff who were stranded at Singapore recently for want of seats for return on Air India, help was extended by Station Manager by obtaining interline passages for them on other airlines wherever possible.

### **Landing of private jet aircraft at Bombay and Bangalore**

1822. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private jet aircraft was allowed to land at Bombay and then at Bangalore on the 8th August, 1978;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some V.I.Ps. travelled in this jet aircraft;