

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) As a result of the steep increase in petrol prices and spare parts and consequent hike in tourist taxi charges, tourists find it more economical to travel in groups. The demand for air-conditioned coaches has, therefore, increased compared to the large sized tourist taxis. However, tourists travelling independently or in smaller groups continue to utilise large size taxis particularly in tourist centres where tourist coaches may not be available.

Fitting of airconditioning units in Ambassador cars would have to be done at the cost of luggage space and seating capacity of the vehicle as most airconditioning units available in the country are rather bulky. As the engine will have to bear the extra load of the airconditioning unit, the life and working of the car engine may be adversely affected. In view of this, tourist operators may not like to fit in airconditioning unit indigenously manufactured, in Ambassador cars.

Transport facilities for tourists in India

*434. SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: SHRI
KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN: SHRIMATI SAROJ
KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the transport facilities available for tourists in India are not of international standards; and

A (b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Transport facilities for tourists in India are comparable to international standards. Indian Airlines is in the process of modernising their fleet by acquiring new air-crafts in the near future. Their on time performance is one of the highest in the world. The airconditioned class in the Indian Railways compare favourably with the best in the developed countries. In fact it is much better. Air India has earned an enviable reputation. As regards road transport, since we do not manufacture large size luxury cars and import of foreign cars is not encouraged, the Department of Tourism has been allotting secondhand imported cars acquired by State Trading Corporation to tourist car operators approved by the Department of Tourism to meet the needs of foreign tourists. India Tourism Development Corporation also has a first class transport fleet.

Participation by India in Joint Industrial Ventures

*435. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to participate in the proposed joint industrial ventures of the Association of South East Asian Nations; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such industrial ventures and their proposed locations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) It is the policy of the Government to permit Indian entrepreneurs to set up joint ventures abroad including countries in the South East Asia. The Indian participation is