

Mechanism for capping of economy and business class airfares

26. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the formulation of a mechanism for the capping of economy and business class airfares, to curb the predatory pricing of passenger tickets by airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Air fares are not regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to fix tariff under the provision of Sub-rule (1) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937 having regard to relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristic of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff.

VRS scheme for Air India employees

27. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India proposes to introduce VRS for its employees, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether financial crunch of Air India comes in the way of implementing this scheme, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

International flights from Biju Patnaik Airport

28. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the announcement pertaining to starting international flights from Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar has still not been implemented;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government and the Chief Minister of Odisha has written and continuously pursued the matter with the Ministry; and