

Privatisation of airports

†2682. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise other airports also after the privatisation of the airports in four metro cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated income of Government by privatisation of the each airport and details of the amount to be saved, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Government of India in January, 2000 approved the restructuring of the airports of Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable. The proposal regarding restructuring of airports other than four metro airports is at a preliminary stage, and details are yet to be worked out.

Non-payment of pension to IA employees

2683. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines Management had signed a Pension Scheme with LIC of India in 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons for not giving pension to retired employees inspite of deducting sizeable amount from their salary for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines introduced, with the approval of the Government, Employees' Self Contributory Superannuation Pension Scheme in 1997 covering employees retiring w.e.f. 1st April, 1994.

The inflow of contribution from employees commenced in May, 1998 after all the necessary approvals were obtained for establishment of a Pension Trust. A large number of employees, eligible to receive pension,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

retired from April, 1994 onwards resulting in mismatch between the funds available with the Trust and the funds required to purchase annuity for eligible retirees. The pension to the retirees is, therefore, being offered in phases.

Further the declining rate of interest has significantly increased the cost of annuity. This called for a review of the level of contribution and benefits under the scheme based on the actuarial valuation. Based on such valuation the Pension Scheme is being modified from 'Benefit Defined' to 'Contribution Defined' scheme is consultation with the Unions/Associations. The revised Scheme would be implemented after completing legal and other formalities.

Re-appointment of probationary Air Hostesses as Traffic Assistant

2684. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of ex-Air Hostesses (probationary) re-appointed as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines, since 1999;

(b) the normal age of appointment for Traffic Assistant *vis-a-vis* the age of persons so appointed and the basis of relaxation given in age;

(c) whether complaint against such appointment in general or in particular has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No Air Hostess who was on probation has been re-appointed as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines since 1999. However, one Smt. Manju Kala Pokhriyal, ex-Air Hostess was re-appointed as Traffic Assistant w.e.f. 8.9.2000.

(b) The upper age limit for the appointment of Traffic Assistant is 30 years. In the case of the aforesaid appointment, age relaxation was given after careful consideration of the peculiar circumstances of the case and on humanitarian considerations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There was a complaint by her father-in-law alleging corruption/irregularities in the appointment of his daughter-in-