

TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (f) In textile industry the size of Badli Kamgars is estimated to be between 20 to 30 percent of the permanent complement of workers. As far as NTC is concern, about 3800 badli workers are employed in the mills under NTC located in Mumbai. The badli workers have been on the rolls in textile industry practically right from inception. The badli workers are made permanent as and when the permanent posts fall vacant due to natural separation or resignation on the basis of seniority and other factors. Presently NTC in not regularising any permanent workers keeping in view of the fact that there is already excess man-power and NTC is implementing voluntary retirement scheme. Besides, a ban has been imposed against fresh recruitment in NTC mills.

Air Service between Delhi and Beijing

527. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL :
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide air-service between Delhi and Beijing in view of the increase in trade and passenger traffic between India and China during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The direct traffic between India and China is presently not adequate to support an end-to-end service. There is, therefore, no plan at present for a direct airlink.

Expansion of Vijayawada Airport

528. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA :

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

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India propose to expand Vijayawada Airport and asked RITES to prepare an estimate for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have re-confirmed the offer of providing 50% interest free loan for the development of the airport;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in starting the work; and

(e) the time by which tenders are likely to be called to start the work ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The estimates are being prepared by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to undertake the following on a phased manner :-

(i) Strengthening of existing runway for Being operations.

(ii) Widening and strengthening of apron and taxi track.

(iii) Construction of new Terminal Building.

(iv) Provision of very High Frequency Omni Range (VOR).

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has re-confirmed the offer of Rs.8 crores for the development of this airport.

(d) and (e) Due to low density of traffic and consequent reluctance on the part of airlines to operate to this airport, the work was shelved in 1994. The proposal has since been revived and Tenders for the work are expected to be called by December, 1996.

Trade Agreement on Audio-Visuals

529. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently signed any agreement with any country on Audio-Visuals Under World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Expenditure of Tourism Offices

530. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIAMTI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) the details of maintenance expenditure incurred on Tourism Offices functioning abroad during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to shift a few of these offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) Location of offices is reviewed from time to time.