

(b) whether the Delhi-Allahabad air service is not earning profits;

(c) whether it is due to unsuitable timings of this air service;

(d) if so, whether the loss can be avoided by starting morning service from Allahabad and evening service from Delhi; and

(e) whether Government proposed to take steps to reschedule this air service immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :
(a) Rescheduling is not considered necessary.

(b) Yes, Sir. There had been deficit to the extent of Rs. 1.6 crores approximately on this service during the period April, 1984 to December, 1984.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

[English]

Vayudoot Services Operating in Bihar

1308. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Vayudoot services which are operating at present in Bihar;

(b) whether Government have undertaken or propose to undertake any survey for starting more Vayudoot services in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are aware that there is utmost necessity of starting Vayudoot service from Patna to Jamshedpur and Purnea and from Jamshedpur to Dhanbad as these routes would be economically viable;

(e) whether Government propose to take action in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) Vayudoot is at present operating the following two services to and through stations in Bihar :

(1) Daily service on the Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Calcutta route.

(2) Thrice a week service on the Calcutta-Rourkela-Ranchi route.

(b) and (c). Jamshedpur, Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Purnea are the four stations in Bihar identified for airlinking by Vayudoot in its first phase of expansion. Jamshedpur is presently airlinked by Vayudoot. Purnea is likely to be provided an airlink within the financial year 1985-86 subject to availability of infrastructure and economic viability of operations. Gaya and Muzaffarpur had been airlinked by Vayudoot earlier but were subsequently dropped due to poor load factor.

(d) to (f). Subject to economic viability of operations and availability of infrastructural facilities Vayudoot also has plans to airlink Dhanbad and Patna during the year 1985-86.

Steps to Increase the Tourist Traffic Between India and Maldives

1309. SHRI P. A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any step to increase the tourist traffic between India and Maldives; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government have a strong interest in promoting inter-regional tourism, and, therefore, between India and Maldives.

(b) Indian Airlines operate a twice weekly B-737 service between India and Male on the Trivandrum-Male-Trivandrum route. Maldives and India are both members of the World Tourism Organisation Regional