

Arab Emirates to permit operation of air services between India and Dubai by EMIRATES airline.

(b) No Sir. 'Emirates' is not an additional airline because with its inception, the operations of Gulf Air the former airline operating on this route have been suspended.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Involvement of Private Agencies to Construct Bridges

745. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO :  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI  
PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at several important places of National Highways, bridges on rivers could not be constructed by Government due to paucity of funds ;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a proposal to allow private agencies to construct bridges and collect toll ;

(c) whether a decision has since been taken in this regard and guidelines prepared ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c): Yes, Sir.

(d) The following types of schemes have been considered suitable for private sector financing :

- (i) Selected byepasses around big cities.
- (ii) New facilities such as Expressways.
- (iii) New Bridges.
- (iv) Four-laning of two-lane sections with two fast lanes with toll fee and two slow lanes without toll fee.

In selecting such schemes the following criteria will have to be fulfilled.

(i) The new facility should not result in a monopoly and hence there should be an alternative facility available to the general public.

(ii) The source of funds for the private entrepreneurs should be from their own resources and open market borrowings.

(iii) The entrepreneur will be allowed to fix the tariffs according to his commercial judgement subject to the interests of the users being protected through the existence of a toll-free facility.

#### Leakage in Taj Mahal

746. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL  
PUROHIT :  
SHRI UTTAMRAO PARIL :  
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Taj is leaking from several places and this will cause irreparable loss to the world famous mausoleum,

(b) how could this come about when the Archaeological Survey of India has an office located at Agra with adequate outfit of staff ;

(c) when were these leaks located ; and

(d) the steps taken to stop them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) No, Sir. However, seepage was detected at one spot and this was promptly plugged.

(b) The seepage is a sudden development due to unseasonal and unprecedented rains.

(c) The seepage was detected on 10th October, 1985.

(d) The seepage has been plugged by removing the aged and pulverised lime concrete on and around the berm and relaying fresh lime concrete mixed with necessary waterproofing compound.