

Haj Pilgrims

*30. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the flights schedule of Air India at Jeddah got upset, particularly in April, 1998, causing great hardships to the Haj pilgrims on return journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof and causes for the same;

(c) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to a report under the caption "Many Indian Hajjis stranded at Jeddah" published in "Times of India", Mumbai issue dated April 23, 1998;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of any enquiry made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The news item is mainly about inconvenience caused to Indian Haj Pilgrims at Jeddah Airport reportedly due to dislocation of schedules of charter flights.

Out of 174 flights operated from Jeddah to India, 44 flights were delayed between 6-24 hours due to congestion at Jeddah Airport and technical snags developed by the airport weteased by Air India. In addition, three flights were delayed due to late reporting of pilgrim at Jeddah airport. All the pilgrims were carried to their respective destinations by re-scheduling of flights and no flight was cancelled on account of technical snags or delays. Further the pilgrims of the affected aircraft were accorded the usual facilitation including serving of meals and refreshments till their departure.

Mobilisation of Funds

*31. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI AJIT JOGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has mobilised a huge amount from public through the Indian Railway Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the total amount and the year in which it has been mobilised alongwith the rate of interest and the date of maturity thereof and the projects for which this amount was mobilised; and

(c) the manner in which the Railways propose to utilise this huge amount ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) : The following amounts were mobilised through bond issues in the domestic market, by way of Public Issue and Private Placement:

Year	Amount mobilised (Rs. in Crore)	Rate of Interest Per Annum	Date of Maturity	Year-wise total (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1987-88	250.00	10%	15.04.1997	
	309.40	9%	15.04.1997	
1988-89	400.00	9%	26.02.1998	959.40
	100.00	9%	23.03.1999	
1989-90	500.00	9%	07.02.1999	600.00
	100.00	9%	12.01.2000	
(d)	300.00	9%	16.12.1999	
	50.00	9%	22.12.1999	
(e)	165.00	9%	28.12.1999	
	35.00	9%	30.12.1999	
1990-91	350.00	9%	01.01.2000	1000.00
	100.00	9%	18.03.2001	
1991-92	1070.00	9%	28.08.2000	1170.00
	800.00	9%	15.07.2001	
1992-93	700.00	9%	30.11.2001	1500.00
	0.00			0.00
1993-94	85.71	10.50%	04.03.2001	
	200.00	16%	04.03.1999	
1994-95	130.00	14%	28.03.1999	
	20.00	14%	30.03.1999	
1995-96	200.00	10.50%	09.03.2001	
	35.00	10.50%	22.03.2001	
1996-97	3.00	10.50%	26.03.2001	
	54.00	10.50%	28.03.2001	
1997-98	8.00	10.50%	30.03.2001	
	5.00	10.50%	31.01.2001	740.71
1998-99	176.50	10.50%	05.10.2001	
	30.00	9%	17.01.2002	206.50
1999-00	5.00	10.50%	15.09.2002	
	5.00	10.50%	16.09.2002	
2000-01	30.00	10.50%	22.09.2002	
	10.00	10.50%	27.10.2002	
2001-02	11.00	10.50%	17.11.2002	
	0.98	10.50%	24.11.2002	
2002-03	10.00	10.50%	30.11.2002	
	2.73	10.50%	01.12.2002	
2003-04	0.73	10.50%	08.12.2002	
	0.94	10.50%	15.12.2002	

1	2	3	4	5
	13.68	10.50%	22.12.2002	
	0.15	10.50%	29.12.2002	
	6.28	10.50%	15.01.2003	
	0.40	10.50%	19.01.2003	
	0.51	10.50%	02.02.2003	
	0.01	10.50%	09.02.2003	
	161.91	16.50%	29.03.2003	259.32
1996-97	130.59	10.50%	27.08.2003	
	11.75	10.50%	07.10.2003	
	292.25	16.50%	27.08.2003	
	58.85	16.50%	07.10.2003	
	147.24	10.50%	21.05.2003	
	61.90	16.50%	21.05.2001	
	13.39	16.50%	21.05.2001	
	38.39	16.50%	21.05.2006	
	190.47	10.50%	04.03.2004	944.83
1997-98	386.02	10.50%	27.06.2004	
	60.50	10.50%	30.03.2008	
	50.00	10.50%	31.03.2005	
	500.00	14.25%	29.07.2004	
	458.47	13.50%	29.07.2004	1454.99
			TOTAL	8835.75

The funds so raised are utilised to finance the acquisition of Rolling Stock assets which are given on lease to Indian Railways.

Reservation in Armed Forces

*32. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to introduce reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC for recruitment in the Armed Forces is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Appointments and selection to Armed Forces are made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of Caste, Community, area or class is provided.

[Translation]

Menace of Touts

*33. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the menace of touts and unauthorised travel agents dealing with the reservation of railway tickets throughout the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the railway officials act in league with the touts for extraneous benefits;

(d) if so, the number of raids conducted in each zone during the last year and the current year till date and action taken against the guilty officials;

(e) the existing provisions in regard to action/punishment against the persons found in illegal reservation;

(f) whether the Government are aware that present provisions are not adequate to check the said blackmarketing legal reservations;

(g) whether the Government contemplate to amend the existing provisions so as to make them more effective; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir, Some cases of cornering of train accommodation by anti-social elements and later selling it on premium to needy passengers have been reported.

In order to check this menace, regular checks are conducted to nab the touts and unauthorised Travel Agents by RPF, Vigilance and Commercial Departments in the Railways.

Checks are also conducted on the premises of authorised rail travel agents to see if any irregularities are committed by them. These raids and checks are intensified during summer rush.

In the year 1997-98, 43603 raids were conducted against touts. As a result of the above checks, 4808 touts and anti-social elements have been detected and various actions against them like fining, prosecution, forfeiting of tickets, etc. have been taken. In some instances, licences of defaulting RTSAs have also been suspended/cancelled. Apart from this, the passengers who have purchased tickets from unauthorised agents are also checked on trains and 19095 cases of transferred tickets have been caught during this period and an amount of Rs. 84.50 lakhs realised from them. 646 railway staff have also been taken up for various irregularities including complaints in booking/reservation.