

[*Translation*]

Ban on Smoking in Air India Flights

723. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to ban smoking in its flights to Europe, Britain and United States;

(b) if so, whether Air India also proposes to ban smoking in its flights to other countries as well; and

(c) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Depending upon the market feedback regarding passenger preferences and the practice followed by competitors, Air India will consider introducing non-smoking flights progressively on other routes as well. No specific time frame can, however, be laid down for this purpose.

Airport at Ajmer

724. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey for the construction of airport in Ajmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether approval to construct an air-strip in Saradhana village of Ajmer has also been accorded;

(c) if so, the progress made by the Department in this regard;

(d) whether the construction of an airport at Ajmer, this year on the occasion of 786 Urs of Khawaja Garib Nawaj, where lakhs of people from all over the world are likely to visit is not most appropriate; and

(e) if so, details of outlines of the proposal formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The question of setting up a new airport at Ajmer has been under examination. Since the Airports Authority of India's feasibility study indicates that the project is not financially viable the Planning Commission has been requested to provide full budgetary support.

[*English*]

Gold Deposits

725. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether significant gold deposits have been discovered in the Singhbhum region of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No significant gold deposits have been discovered in the Singhbhum region of Bihar so far.

(b) Question does not arise.

Out of Turn Allotment of DDA Flats

726. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has allotted flats on out of turn basis in 1989 on the ground "not having a housing in Delhi" but rejected the requests of other applicants seeking such allotments;

(b) if so, the reasons for following discriminatory policies and whether there is any proposal to inquire into such matters and to allot the DDA flats now to those whose requests were turned down in 90s at the rates prevailing at that time;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are cases where conveyance deed have not been sent to the allottees who have made the full payment of the flat to the DDA; and