

against the officials found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (e) The entire matter relating to wet leasing of aircraft by Air India is being looked into by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[Translation]

Helicopter Crash

2980. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army helicopters crashed and those damaged by foreign missiles in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 till July 15, 1997; separately;

(b) the number of soldiers injured and killed therein; and

(c) the quantum and nature of assistance and other facilities provided so far to those injured and killed in these crashes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) During the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (till 15th July 1997) 1, 1 and 2 Army helicopters respectively, crashed in which 3 soldiers were killed. No one was injured. No helicopter has been damaged by foreign missiles. In addition to the compensation from Group Insurance Scheme, the service personnel are given an ex-gratia grant of rupees one lakh.

[English]

North Koyal Canal Project in Bihar

2981. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Koyal Canal Project is the largest irrigation project of Bihar;

(b) whether the irrigation of Palamu Aruagabad, Chatra, Gaya, Nawada and Monghyr district depends on this project;

(c) whether work on this project lying pending;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to provide Central Assistance for the completion of this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) North Koel Project is one of the major ongoing irrigation projects of Bihar. On completion, it shall provide irrigation benefits to palamu, Aurangabad and Gaya Districts. The anticipated expenditure upto March, 1997 was Rs. 419.23 crores.

(d) to (e) The project has not been given clearance by the Planning Commission as the project report was sent back to the State Government in June, 1996 due to non-compliance of the observations of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Upper Tunga Project

2982. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of opposition by the Andhra Pradesh Government, the Karnataka Government continues to construct the Upper Tunga Project;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Andhra Government to stop construction of said project by Karnataka;

(c) whether the Union Government have also opposed the Karnataka's move to construct the Upper Tunga Project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and present position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Upper Tunga Project in Krishna Basin of Karnataka has not been given Investment Clearance by the Union Government. The State of Andhra Pradesh has filed a suit in the Supreme Court of India under Article 131 of the Constitution in the matter of violation of decision of Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal against the States of Karnataka and Maharashtra & Union of India.

Merger of AAI with IAAI

2983. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the

Government have come out with the report regarding the merger of AAI with IAAI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the seniority is going to be counted between AAI and IAAI employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Government had not appointed any Committee. However Airports Authority of India (AAI) had set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice J.D. Jain (Retd.). This Committee has submitted its report which broadly deals with the principles of integration of cadres, scales of pay, conditions of service and inter-seniority amongst the employees of National Airports Division and International Airports Division of Airports Authority of India (AAI). The report is under examination of AAI.

Task Force for North East Sector

2984. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the task force on development of tourism in North East has called for removal restrictions on the tourists;

(b) if so, whether this task force was constituted by the Department of Tourism to recommend the improvement in the North Eastern sector;

(c) the steps are being taken to improve the tourism in the North Eastern States;

(d) whether these States have been lying as isolated region;

(e) whether any concrete programme in this regard has been worked out; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (f) The Task Force set up by the Department of Tourism has recommended to consider removal of entry restrictions on the tourists. The other recommendations include emphasis on Infrastructure and Human Resource Development and wide publicity of Tourist. Attractions of the region. The Task Force has identified a number of projects including construction of tourist complexes, wayside

amenities etc. for the development of tourism of the region and a number of them have been prioritised for Central Financial Assistance during 1997-98.

Replacment of Indian Artefacts

2985. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Asian Age dated July 2, 1997 entitled "British Museum told to replace Indian Artefacts"; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of British Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An exhibition entitled 'Enduring Image' from British Museum will have a wide range of art-objects belonging to various ancient world civilizations on view in the National Museum from 13th October, 1997 onwards for about two months. While examining the list of exhibits proposed to be displayed, it was felt that the Indian Section was rather under-represented, not truly commensurate with the great civilization that it is. Accordingly, suggestions were made to the British Museum to enhance the Indian Section by changing some of the exhibits and adding new ones more representative of our civilization. The suggestion has been received favourably, some changes have already been made and some are likely to be made before the final list of exhibits is agreed.

Daily Flight for Metro Cities

2986. SHRI RAJENDRASINH RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities connected with the metro cities by daily flight services;

(b) whether the Government propose to connect the cities with daily flights to metrol cities which are not having this facility at present; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Twenty four cities are connected with daily flights to/from metro cities.

(b) and (c) In view of resource constraint of the Indian