

Induction of Small Aeroplanes

1980. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :
DR. AHSOK PATEL :
SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce flights of small aeroplanes as taxi for promoting the regional contact in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard and the services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) With a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country, route dispersal guidelines have been framed. These guidelines stipulates all scheduled operators to deploy in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep (Category-II routes) at least 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (category-I routes); 1% capacity deployed on Category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within Category-II stations; and 50% of the capacity provided on Category-I routes is to be provided on routes other than Category-II routes (category-III routes).

However, with a view to making the services viable on short/unremunerative sectors, proposal to provide incentives/concessions to operators of smaller aircraft (upto 55 seater) is under consideration.

[English]

Extraction of Gold from the Dumps

1981. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to recycle the waste dumps of gold ore in Kolar Gold fields;

(b) if so, whether the gold can be extracted from these dumps; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The report submitted in October, 1996 by M/s Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI)

which was appointed as Operating Agency (OA) by Board. For Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), envisaged that about 12 tonnes of gold could be extracted from the 33 million tonnes of tailings by setting up a metallurgical plant estimated to cost about Rs. 77.00 crores. The project was a part of rehabilitation scheme submitted by the OA. The report of OA has not been accepted by the Government. Government decided in June, 1997 to explore the possibility of rehabilitating the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) through Joint Venture route by induction of a private co-promoter(s). Accordingly, a Committee was constituted which has since given its report. The future of the BGML will be decided as per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

[Translation]

Investment of Public Sector Under-taking in Mining

1982. DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to privatise public sector units in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for privatisation; and

(c) the details of the procedure followed for privatisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) In case of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, a public sector unit under this Department, the Disinvestment Commission had recommended disinvestment in phases i.e. immediate sale of 40% equity to a strategic partner, then bringing down Government equity to 26% within two years and to zero over a period of time by offloading the same in the domestic market. This had been considered by the Government. But subsequently the Disinvestment Commission has recommended that 51% of the Government equity or more may be offered to strategic buyer alongwith transfer of management at the initial stage itself. This is under examination in the Government.

In case of Hindustan Copper Limited, the Disinvestment Commission have recommended offering of 51% Government equity to a strategic partner alongwith certain restructuring. This is under examination in the Government.