

Leasing of Aircrafts by I.A.

1964. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed leasing of aircrafts by Indian Airlines on dry / wet leasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of leasing companies with which the leasing agreements have been signed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The approval of the Government is not required in cases of aircraft leasing by Indian Airlines since the Board of the Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) is competent to take such financial decisions.

During 1998-99, Indian Airlines has taken two A-300 B-4 on dry lease for a period of three years from M/s. GE Capital Aviations Services Limited (GECAS), on a monthly rental of US\$ 135000 per aircraft.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of War Ships

1965. SHRI K.L. SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delay caused in building of requisite war-ships has affected the functioning of navy badly in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay;

(c) the time to be taken in building these war-ships; and

(d) the estimated cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) There has been time and cost overruns in respect of indigenous construction of war-ships. These are mainly due to delay in receipt of military hardware by Shipyards as a result of breakdown of Soviet Union and consequent dilution of their military industry, delay in the creation of necessary infrastructure in shipyards due to scarcity of resources, changes in specifications due to technological advancements in Avionics and Armaments, labour unrest etc.

Suitable measures are taken to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction by undertaking additions to the fleet through indigenous construction/acquisition from abroad.

[English]

Development of Mineral Sector

1966. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to change existing policies and procedures for the development of mineral sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring forward any legislation for offshore mining; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The Central Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of then Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India with Mining Secretaries of State Governments, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee, inter-alia, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases. The Committee was also to consider and suggest further delegation of power to the State Governments regarding grant / renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining. The Committee has submitted its report to the government and further necessary action for amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, and Rules made thereunder has already been initiated.

(c) and (d) The Central Government constituted a Working Group to draft legislation for regulation and development of mineral resources in the territorial waters/ continental shelf/exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones in India in May, 1993 under the chairmanship of the then Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines concerned with policy and legislation. The Working Group submitted its Report alongwith draft Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill in December, 1995. The report of the Working Group has been processed and further follow-up action in the matter has been initiated.