

3. Government is aware that China has steadily improved its military co-operation with India's neighbouring countries like Myanmar (Burma) and Pakistan. Chinese assistance to Pakistan's missile and nuclear programmes is well known.

4. All developments having bearing on our national security are constantly monitored and assessed. Appropriate measures are taken to maintain our defence preparedness to face all eventualities.

[Translation]

**Tripartite Agreement in Halli Rajhara Iron Ore Mine**

5229. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tripartite agreement had been reached with Halli Rajhara Iron Ore Mine of Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of labourers who are being benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) A Tripartite Agreement was reached on 14.11.1995 between the management of the Dhalli Rajhara Iron Ore Mines of Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) and Chattisgarh Mines Shramik Sangh (CMSS Union), in presence of the Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Raipur, inter alia, to lay down the modalities for the departmentalisation of contractual workmen. Under this Agreement, 3025 contract labourers were benefited by being taken as Departmental piece Rated workers.

[English]

**Farm Houses in Delhi**

5230. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm houses in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any rule which provides for their compulsory registration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) There are 1599 farm houses in MCD area in Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing laws do not provide for registration of farm houses.

[Translation]

**Tata-Singapore Airlines**

5231. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the permission is being granted to M/s Tata Singapore Airlines' for operating air transport services;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) There is, at present, no proposal under consideration for grant of permission to "M/s Tata-Singapore Airlines" for operating air transport services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Municipal Bonds**

5232. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce tax free municipal bonds in the country to mobilise resources for the development of cities; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Planning Commission are yet to give their concurrence to the proposal. Subsequent to concurrence by the planning Commission, guidelines for issue of the Tax Free Municipal Bonds will be framed by this Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

As such it is not possible at present to furnish information regarding the salient features of the proposal.

[English]

**Direct Airlin to Capitals of SAARC Countries**

5233. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide direct airlin between Delhi and the capitals of the SAARC countries; and

(b) if so, the date by which the above proposal is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Delhi is already connected with all the SAARC capitals except Islamabad and Male. Islamabad is presently not available as a point of call for Indian carriers on the route schedule in the Air Service Agreement between