

clearance of applications in this regard. The High Powered Board would comprise of Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Union Government co-opted of senior State Government representatives as required.

- Captive generating units are being encouraged to sell/distribute surplus power to SEBs on the basis of contractual agreement and standardised two part tariff.
- Necessary amendments to the Electricity Acts are being brought out shortly.
- A special Cell is proposed to be created in Department of Power of deal with proposals expeditiously for private sector participation.

Indian Airlines on Foreign Routes

1986. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines is also operating on foreign routes;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal to leave the operational activities on all foreign routes exclusively to Air India and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Operations on regional

routes by India Airlines were envisaged in the Statement of Objects & Reasons attached to the parent Act namely the Air Corporations Act, 1953.

Air Strip in Sikkim

1987. SHRI NANDU THAPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plans to provide an Air Strip in Sikkim;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (c) when it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) National Airports Authority have no plans to construct an air strip in Sikkim during the 8th Plan period.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Power Shortage in Karnataka

1988. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: SHRI J.C.P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka is facing an acute shortage of power;
- (b) whether power cut in some industrial centres in Karnataka is more than 50%;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to expedite the setting up of a thermal power plant at Mangalore;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and