

DIRECT FLIGHTS — INDIA–WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**939. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer to the minister's comments at a recent Indian independence day celebration at Parliament House where direct flights between India and Perth were reported as being the highest priority of the minister.

- (1) When can the Indian community expect to benefit from direct flights between India and Western Australia?
- (2) What liaison has the minister had with Madeleine King, MP, to advance opportunities with international airlines regarding the direct route from India to WA?
- (3) Will the minister advocate for the Regional Development Australia Kimberley *Tourism industry* report recommendation that the Australian government remove cabotage restrictions for international and domestic routes in and out of the Kimberley and consider a similar concept for flights into and out of Perth?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) Discussions are ongoing with a number of airlines on a direct service between Perth and India.
- (3) Advice is currently being prepared on the impact of modifying current restrictions.