

by Government. It is expected that additional funds will be provided during the course of the year.

Creation of Civil Aviation Fund

1459. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the TATA Airline Project with 40% foreign equity participation;

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith the foreign equity participation indicating the foreign collaboration; and the amount that would be in the form of import of technology and know-how; and

(c) the extent to which the collaboration is in conformity with the new revised Aviation Policy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) In January, 1998 M/s. Tata Industries submitted a proposal to FIPB for foreign equity of 40% amounting to Rs. 332 crores in M/s. Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. by issue and allotment of equity shares upto a maximum of Rupee equivalent of US \$83.00 million to Foreign Institutional Investors. The proposal also involved technical collaboration by M/s. Singapore Airlines. The proposal envisage a fleet of 18 aircraft in 5 years. The Technical Service Agreement Fee amounted to Rs. 197 crores. This proposal is under consideration of FIPB.

Further, the proposal of the Company submitted in December, 1997 for NOC to operate scheduled air transport services is also under consideration.

(c) Guidelines on "Indirect/direct foreign equity participation/collaboration" in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation. The proposal of M/s Tata Airlines Pvt. Ltd. would be examined under the approved guidelines.

New Railway Projects

1460. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry have desired that Railways may scrap the new railway projects on the ground of non-viability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to scrap some of the Railway Advisory Committees meant for suggesting measures for improving the train services; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Ezhimala Naval Academy

1461. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the construction work of the proposed Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Kerala stands at present and the progress made so far therein;

(b) whether the works at the Academy is hampering for want of funds;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken in regard thereto;

(d) the allocations made and the amount utilised for this project so far; and

(e) the time by which the Academy is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The infrastructure facilities required to be provided by the State Government of Kerala are in the various stages of completion. The civil works to renovate existing buildings is likely to be completed by June, 1998. A consultancy agreement with the Architect has already been concluded on 9 January, 1998. The Architect has already started the survey work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the question.

(d) A sum of Rs. 600 lakhs had been allocated for the project till 31-3-1998 and out of this Rs. 426.88 lakhs has been spent till 31-3-1998.

(e) By end 2001.

Foreign Investments

1462. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited several Non-Resident Indians and Multinational Companies to invest in Low-cost Housing Schemes to form cornerstone of the New National Housing Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and