

DOUBLING OF CHENGLEPUT-VILLUPURAM RAILWAY LINE (T. N.)

936. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the doubling of railway line between Chengleput and Villupuram in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken in future in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

RULES FOR AIR TAXI OPERATORS

937. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise rules for air taxi operators;

(b) if so, whether he had held any discussions in this regard recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) The representatives of Air Taxi operators were called for a meeting on the 16th July, 1991 with a view to exchange views and ideas and to ascertain their problems. A number of issues were identified ranging from infrastructure facilities at the airports to fiscal and financial matters. They were assured that steps would be taken to tackle them and they would be given a fair opportunity to succeed in their ventures.

COMPUTERISED BOOKING SYSTEM FOR DEHRADUN

938. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a computerised booking system was planned and sanctioned for Dehradun;

(b) whether, after initial installation, the equipment was shifted to another station; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to install computerised booking system in Dehradun immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

UPGRADATION OF COCHIN AIRPORT

939. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main runway or the secondary runway of Cochin airport has been extended;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendation made by the technical experts regarding upgradation of the existing Cochin Airport for Airbus operations ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have examined the following options for upgradation of the Cochin Airport which belongs to the Navy :—

(1) Extending the main runway by 2000 feet and strengthening the same for Airbus operations.

(2) Realignment of the secondary runway and extending it by 5000 feet; and

(3) Construction of a new airport at an alternative site.

Of these options, the construction of a new airport was not considered to be a feasible proposition both because of the non-availability of suitable land as well as the very high cost of the project.

Of the other two options, the second option was found to be preferable on operational and technical considerations. It was estimated that the second option would involve an expenditure of the order of Rs. 42.50 crores (1986 estimates). It involves reclamation of land from the sea, estimated to cost Rs. 15.00 crores, which may take five to six years. It also involves diversion of railway line and construction of a new railway bridge which can be taken up only after the reclamation of the land and which by itself would need about three years. The project for realignment and extension of the second runway has not been taken up so far because of paucity of resources with the agencies involved in its implementation.

[Translation]

CLEARANCE TO PENDING POWER PROJECTS

940. MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the power projects lying pending for approval with the Union Government;

(b) since when these projects are being considered; and

(c) the efforts being made for the immediate approval of these projects for being implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Details are given in the attached Statements I & II.

(c) All efforts are made by the Central Electricity Authority to accord techno-economic clearance to the proposals received from the State Governments for taking up new power projects in their State as expeditiously as possible. However, this clearance and investment approval by the Planning Commission depend upon several factors including the comprehensiveness of the project reports received from the project authorities, time taken by the Project authorities in replying to various comments/observations of the CEA/CWC, availability of various inputs and clearances such as fuel availability, transportation of coal and gas, port facilities, water availability, clearances from Environment & Forest angle, State Pollution Control Boards and National Airport Authority resolution of inter-State aspects etc.

STATEMENT—I

Power projects of States which have been techno-economically appraised in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and are awaiting investment decision

(STATE-WISE)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity MW	Date of CEA Clearance
1	2	3	4
THERMAL			
Punjab			
1.	Bhatinda—GNDTPS St. III U—5 & 6	2 × 210 = 420	21-3-90
Rajasthan			
2.	Suratgarh TPS	2 × 250 = 500	13-6-91