

**Development of Varkala as a Tourist Centre**

844. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the decision regarding the development of Varkala in Trivandrum District of Kerala as a tourist centre is pending before the Government for a long period; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the long delay and the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). Two representations were received by the Government for the development of Varkala as a tourist centre. Since the development of Varkala as a tourist centre is dependent upon the construction of a road to the mineral spring and enlarging the tunnel on the backwaters, the State Government had been approached to do the needful in the matter. It regretted its inability to construct the road due to constraint on resources. As regards enlarging the tunnel the State Government has stated that it may take sometime more to finalise the investigations.

**Air Passengers from Middle East to Cochin and Trivandrum**

845. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a heavy flow of air passengers from the Middle East to Cochin and Trivandrum and they are experiencing great difficulties in getting accommodation in Bombay-Cochin and Trivandrum flights; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK):** (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Indian Airlines have taken the following steps:—

(i) The halt at Goa from the daily Boeing 737 service Bombay-Goa-Trivandrum has been omitted, increasing the number of seats by 46 per flight.

(ii) Passengers travelling from Trivandrum to Bombay and from Bombay to Trivandrum are now allowed to travel via Madras without any additional cost, as a temporary measure.

(iii) The two daily HS-748 services between Bombay and Cochin now make a technical landing at Mangalore for lifting fuel with the result that now 44 passengers can be taken on the aircraft as compared to 38 previously.

**Representation of S. C. and S. T. in Indian Airlines and Air India**

846. SHRI PRADYUMNA K. BAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for less representation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people in the Indian Airlines and Air India jobs; and

(b) the number of officers of SC/ST category that have been absorbed in the Indian Airlines and Air India respectively in the last as well as current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.