

(f) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to complete the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The ranch Consortium, which had been entrusted by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) with the execution of the 390 MW Dulhasti Hydro-electric Project, suspended the works at the project site on 24.08.1992. However, the design and engineering works and manufacture/supply of permanent equipments, which are being carried out outside the project area, continued to be in progress. The French Consortium had recently informed the Govt. that they were making a start to resume work at project site with repairs to the Tunnel Boring Machine. The repairs have since been completed and work on the project's structures is yet to be resumed.

(b) The French Consortium has been representing that the law and order situation in and around the project area has not been conducive to performance of contractual obligations by them.

(c) The French Consortium working on the project at present comprises five different companies.

(d) The contract was for a basic price equivalent to about Rs. 785 crores at the exchange rate applicable as on 24.10-1988. In addition to the basic price, contingencies equivalent to about Rs. 61 crores at the same exchange rate were envisaged in the contract.

(e) The NHPC are of the view that suspension of the work at the project site by the French Consortium is not in accordance

with the terms and conditions of the contract.

(f) The Govt. has taken various steps to persuade the French Consortium to resume work. These include visit to the project site by senior officials of the State Govt. and security agencies, to review the security situation and assure the French Contractors in this regard; augmentation of security arrangements in and around the project area; and constitution of a local security Committee, with due representation to NHPC and the French Contractors, to monitor the security environment on an on-going basis and to take appropriate measures as may be warranted in connection with security aspects relating to the execution of the project.

(g) As the French Consortium had recently indicated their intention to resume the work and had also proceeded to carry out repairs to the Tunnel Boring Machine, it is premature at this stage to consider alternative arrangements for completion of the project.

#### **Expansion of Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut Airport**

2178. PROF. K. V. THOMAS:  
SHRI P. C. THOMAS:  
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the expansion and modernisation of Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut airports; and

◦ (b) the number of additional flights likely to be introduced from these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) TRIVANDRUM: International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) has requested

the State Government of Kerala for acquisition of 140 acres of land on the South-West side of the existing runway for expansion purposes. During 1991-92, the Security Lounge and Domestic Departure have already been air conditioned and expanded. Air conditioning of the arrival hall has been undertaken. IAAI has also plans to improve runway lighting system, strengthening and construction of shoulders of main runway and addition, alterations in Terminal-I

**COCHIN:** Due to the acute fund consisting with the National Airports Authority, they have no plan to upgrade this airport.

**CALICUT:** The National Airports Authority has plans to construct a separate new terminal suitable for 250 incoming passengers at an estimated cost of Rs. 613 lakhs. The work is likely to commence by the end of March, 1993.

(b) Presently, Indian Airlines has no plans to increase services from Trivandrum Cochin and Calicut.

#### **Hindi Programmes on Foreign TV Networks**

2179. **SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Zee TV to beam Hindi fare" as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated October 1, 1992;

(b) whether several foreign TV networks have started exclusively Hindi programmes in the Indian skies; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRJA VYAS):** (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. However, the programmes transmitted via foreign satellites are available only to those viewers who have installed a compatible Dish Antenna. Constant efforts continue to be made to bring about a qualitative improvement in the programme format of Doordarshan to sustain the interest of its viewers.

#### **Slashing of SEBs Dues**

2180. **SHRI S.B. THORAT:**  
**SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:**  
**SHRI ANORANJAN BHAKTA:**

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of overdues of NIPC, NHPCC and other Power Corporations towards each State Electricity Board as on October 1, 1992;

(b) whether the Government have asked the National Thermal Power Corporation to reduce the dues owed to it by the State Electricity Boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI KALP NATH RAI):** (a) The Public Sector Corporation under the Ministry of Power have the following areas due to State Electricity Boards:-

<i>Name of Corporation</i>	<i>Name of SEB</i>	<i>Amount due (Rs. in crores)</i>
N.T.T.P. C.	Sikkim	0.09
D.V.C.	Bihar	0.0937
	Orssa	0.56