

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such proposal at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon (BG) and Tambaram-Chengalpattu (MG) sections is in progress.

Doubling of Quillon-Trivandrum (BG) section will be considered in the coming years.

Upgradation of Trivandrum Airport

167. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received fresh proposals from Kerala Government for upgradation of Trivandrum Airport;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the average weekly number of international passengers to which Trivandrum airport caters; and

(d) the reasons for not declaring this airport as international airport?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Since the existing four international airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are sufficient to cater the needs of international traffic, the Government is not considering any new proposals.

(c) The average weekly number of international passengers to which Trivandrum airport caters is 5285.

Setting up of Cement Plants In Rural Areas

168. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called upon the cement industry to improve productivity and ensure its availability in the rural areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up cement plants in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to make available cement in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). In the recent meeting of the Development Council for Cement Industry, the Cement Industry has been asked to improve its productivity. The industry has also been asked to adopt more innovative marketing policies to generate increasing demand for cement in rural areas. Cement is, however, freely available throughout the country at a price determined by the operation of market forces.

Most of the cement plants either existing or under implementation are located in rural areas where adequate limestone deposits of suitable grade have been established. As a policy, cement plants in the organised sector are encouraged only in rural areas.

International Airport at Srinagar

169. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: