

Kottapattu in Tamil Nadu can house only 2500 persons. efforts are being made to create additional facilities for shelter and for provision for food for the refugees.

(d) & (e). Yes, Sir, Our concern over the fresh influx of Sri Lankan refugees into India was conveyed to the Sri Lankan Govt. We have urged that conditions should be created in Sri Lanka so there would be no exodus of refugees from Sri Lanka to India and those who are in India would be able to return to their country in safety and dignity.

**Expansion Work of the Runway at
Peelamedu Airport**

54. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Government of Tamil Nadu have already acquired 41.21 acres of land and handed over to the CPWD in July, 1984 for runway expansion work at Peelamedu Airport ;

(b) whether this work will be given top priority in the Seventh Plan so that modern aircrafts such as Boeing and Air buses could be operated from Peelamedu airport and night services connecting Coimbatore with important cities in the country and abroad introduced ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Land measuring 42.21 acres has been acquired for extension of the existing runway at Peelamedu (Coimbatore) aerodrome. (b) to (d). Having regard to the urgent need for development of Peelamedu airport to make it suitable for regular Boeing 737 operations, provi-

sion has been made in the Annual Plan, 1984-85 and has also been proposed for inclusion in the Seventh Plan for civil works pertaining to extension and strengthening of runway and associated pavements as well as extension/modification of the terminal building. The civil works will be taken up and completed in the Seventh Plan period. The aerodrome is presently equipped with Medium intensity Runway Lighting System, Taxi-way lights and Apron lights. To facilitate night operations with Boeing-737 aircraft, 2-Bar Visual Approach Slope Indicator System (VASIS) is also being provided. This work is expected to be completed by the end of June, 1985.

**American Plans for Development of
Components of a System for Star
war in Indian Ocean.**

55. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S.A. Plans to deploy on its basis in the Indian Ocean, components of a system for star war ;

(b) whether the construction of a new station for anti-satellite directing system is already underway in Diego Garcia ;

(c) whether reports have also been received that preparations are also underway for stationing F-15 fighter bombers, equipped with special rockets for hitting targets in the space ;

(d) if so, the details in this regard, if any reports have been received by Government of India in this regard ; and

(e) the names of the countries who have protested in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Government of India are aware of reports on the possibility

of the Indian Ocean being used as an intrinsic part of the new U.S. space strategy.

(b) As part of its space defence programmes the U.S. is deploying a worldwide network of five ground based electro optical surveillance sensors. These sensors, which complement existing radars, are designed to detect, track and identify objects in space. Diego Garcia is contemplated as one site for these sensors. Pentagon plans reportedly call for the site to begin operations in financial year 1987.

(c) and (d). There is no information which would confirm that the U. S. Government has deployed F-15 fighter bombers in Diego Garcia. However, U. S. Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger stated in his Budget testimony to the Congress for financial year 1985 that "F-15 aircraft from which the Miniaturised Homing Vehicle will be launched could be based in the Southern Hemisphere for 'attempted intercepts' of satellites in highly elliptical orbits...."

(c) The overwhelming majority of nations have stated their opposition to the extension of the arms race into outer space. Resolution No. 30/59 adopted by the UN General Assembly in its last session on "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" received 150 votes in favour with non against and a single abstention. This resolution expressed grave concern at the danger posed to all mankind by an arms race in outer space, in particular the impending danger of exacerbating the current state of insecurity by developments that could further undermine international peace and security." It reiterated the need for negotiating, on an urgent basis, an agreement to prevent such an arms race in outer space.

[Translation]

Allocation of Money to Maharashtra for Implementation of 20-Point Programme

56. SHRI VIJAY MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money allocated to Maharashtra for successful implementation of 20-Point Programme ; and

(b) the percentage of persons still below the poverty line in the State of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Implementation of the revised 20-Point Programme, announced on 14-1-1982, was taken up from the Annual Plan 1982-83. The revised 20-Point Programme forms an integral part of the State Plans, and the outlays for it, are derived from the relevant developmental sectors. The outlay/expenditure during 1982-83, 83-84 and 84-85 for Maharashtra is shown below :-

Year	(Rs. crores)
1982-83 (Actual)	863.83
1983-84 (Outlay)	953.77
1984-85 (Outlay)	964.71

(b) On the basis of the NSSO 32nd Round (1977-78), the latest Survey for which results are available, the percentage of population below the poverty line in Maharashtra was estimated at 47.71%—55.85% in rural areas and 31.62% in urban areas.

[English]

Inclusion of Nepali Language in Eighth Schedule

57. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the HOME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have now decided to include Nepali language in the Eighth Scheduled of the Constitution of India ; and