

Development of ports in Kerala

3487. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the ports in Kerala which are going to be developed in the coming two years; and

(b) the amount which has been earmarked for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). Among the ports in Kerala, the Central Government is responsible for the development of the Port of Cochin only for which a provision of Rs. 17.22 crores has been made in the Annual Plan 1987-88. The provision for Cochin Port in the Annual Plan of 1988-89 will be known only when the annual plan of 1988-89 is finalised.

Airports under construction in Kerala

3488. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new airports under construction as well as under consideration in Kerala during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) the total outlay for these projects and the time-schedule of completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). An airport at Calicut (Karipur) in Kerala is, at present, under construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.41 crores. The Airport is expected to be ready by the 31st of December, 1987.

Activities of touts despite Computerisation in railway reservations

3489. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in

the 'Statesman' dated 5 February, 1987, under the caption 'Computers no match for touts'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report pertains to the happenings on 4th February, 1987 at the Railways Computerised Reservation Centre at New Delhi.

After installation of the Computerised reservation system, the average service time per requisition slip has come down to 2 minutes as against 4.5 minutes in the manual system. Consequently, the queue lengths have also come down from 35-40 persons under the manual system to 10-12 persons under the computerised system.

During the period 2nd to 5th February, 1987, a higher capacity computer was being commissioned with a view to computerise reservations in Delhi area for a number of additional trains. During the process of switch over, the number of terminals got reduced. This resulted in some increase in the waiting time and the queue lengths. Normal working however got restored from 6.2.87.

As regards operation of touts, surprise checks are being conducted by the Commercial Officers, Vigilance Organisation and Anti-fraud organisation of the Railways. The checks conducted by Northern Railway against the activities of touts are yielding good results and during the period 1.10.86 to 15.2.87, 42 touts were apprehended and handed over for prosecution to the police under Section 114-A of the Indian Railways Act.

Financial assistance for execution of Irrigation projects of Maharashtra

3490. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some major and medium irrigation projects of Maharashtra have been delayed for want of funds;