

and international, the following major projects have been undertaken:

(a) New International Passenger Terminal Complex at Bombay Airport (Phase II) at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.49 crores. This project is scheduled for completion by March 1985.

(b) New International Passenger & Cargo Terminal Complex at Delhi Airport (Phase I) at an estimated cost of Rs. 63.95 crores. This project is likely to be completed during the year 1984-85.

(c) New National Terminal Complex at Madras Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.04 crores. This project is likely to be completed during the year 1984-85.

Apart from the major projects mentioned above, during the Sixth Plan IAAI is implementing a number of schemes to improve service facilities, the cargo warehousing facilities are being augmented and the operational facilities at the four international airports are being streamlined and improved.

Balance of Payment

4569. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the heavy and costly imports and recessionary trends in the import market, the balance of payment position is seriously strained;

(b) if so, what is the present balance of payment position; and

(c) what steps are taken to improve the balance of payment situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India's external trade and payments situation is severely strained because the economy has experienced a number of exogenous shocks. There has been a sharp rise in the prices of

essential imports, especially of POL which occurred in 1979 and 1980, while the prices of some major items of India's export interest have declined significantly. The growth in India's exports has also been constrained by the continuing recession and intensification of protectionist measures in the developed countries.

(b) The balance of payments position in 1982-83 has shown some improvement over the previous year; but nevertheless the position continues to be a cause for concern in view of the large external trade deficit and its implications for the current account position of balance of payments.

(c) The Government have taken a number of measures which aim at reduction in imports, especially, of bulk items, through increased domestic production and these have had an effect in 1982-83. Efforts are also being made to improve export performance and to increase the flow of remittances from abroad. Necessary steps are being taken to prevent any undue decline in reserves by meeting the essential financing requirements of the economy from multilateral and commercial sources consistent with observing prudent limits on debt servicing.

Accommodation/Boarding facilities at Bodh-Gaya Pilgrim Centre

4570. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bodh-gaya is a major attraction for Buddhist pilgrims and tourists from all over South East Asia and particularly Japan and Thailand but the place lacks adequate accommodation and boarding facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND