

[English]

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Airport at Nedumbassery (Kerala)

3502. **SHRI T. GOVINDAN** : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent by the Union Government for the construction of an Airport at 'Nedumbassery', in Kerala; and

(b) the present position of the Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) :

(a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 22 lakhs for preparation of Master Plan and detailed project report of the new airport. It has procured Communication and Navigation equipment at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crores for installation at new airport.

(b) The present position of the works in progress at Nedumbassery airport is as follows :-

(1) Runway & Associated Pavements :

All works of Runway, Taxiways, Apron have been almost completed. The Ground Lighting System is also in the final stages of completion and is expected to be completed by 25th April, 1999.

(2) Terminal Building :

All works in the Domestic Terminal have been completed. The finishing works in the international terminal are in progress and are expected to be completed by end April, 1999.

(3) Car Park :

The works relating to parking area have been completed.

(4) Technical Block cum Control Tower and other Utility Buildings :

The Technical Block cum Control Tower and other Utility Buildings works with respect to Civil and Electrical works have been completed. The installation of equipments and communication facilities by Airports Authority of India are in progress and expected to be completed by 15th April, 1999.

(5) Navigational Aids :

All Building works to house the navigational equipments have been completed. The installation of equipments is in progress by Airports Authority of India.

The airport is likely to be commissioned in the last week of May, 1999.

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Fare War in Civil Aviation

3503. **SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA** : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that all the international airlines operating in the country held a meeting in Mumbai to discuss the issue to end the fare war persisting since 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During discussions, the airlines had indicated their willingness to end the fare war but in actual practice because of various factors particularly lean traffic, they continued to resort to fare wars by giving incentives in various forms. Efforts are on to get the major carriers to agree to implement the incentives at the agreed levels to improve yields.

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Funds for Development of Tourism in Orissa

3504. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI** : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds sanctioned by the Union Government during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 against each of the sanctioned projects in the State of Orissa for development of tourism;

(b) whether all the funds allocated have been utilised by the State concerned in the meanwhile; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the funds remain idle against the funds earmarked therein for the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific project proposals received from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and availability of funds. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 453.28 lakhs for the implementation of 23 projects during the year 1996-97, Rs. 557 lakhs for implementation of 28 projects during the year 1997-98 and Rs. 210 lakhs for the implementation of 5 projects during the year 1998-99.