

[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.

(b) and (c) 30% of the sanctioned amount is released is 1st instalment subsequent instalments are released on the basis of progress in implementation of the projects and utilisation certificates furnished by the State Governments, A project is to be completed within a period of 30 months of sanction.

[Translation]

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National Highway (S)

Construction of By-Pass between Mohan Sarai and Mughal Sarai

3505. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Border Roads Organisation is constructing the by-pass on G.T. Road in Varanasi (U.P.) from Mohan Sarai to Mughal Sarai;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-completion of the work by the target date of February-March 1999; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be finished now?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Progress of work suffered due to irregular and inadequate flow of funds, unprecedented and incessant rains in September 1995, August 1996 and in 1998, inclement weather during Nov/Dec 97 & Oct 98 and delay in handing over of the approaches of Railway Over Bridge (ROB) to BRO.

(c) Works are planned for completion by 31 May 1999.

[English]

37-38

Kerala

Power Cuts in Doordarshan Kendra at Trivandrum

3506. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendra at Trivandrum always face frequent power cuts;

(b) if so, the measures taken to have uninterrupted flow of electricity to the Kendra;

(c) whether the Government are considering to introduce a news headlines bulletin at the close of the transmission after the usual film at night on DD-4;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Power supply at Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum is provided through two independent feeder lines and interruption in service for 2 minutes occurs each time the source of power supply is changed from the mains to diesel generator and vice versa. Total breakdown in service on account of power supply failure is within half percent of entire duration of transmission.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Reasons are constraints of resources, manpower and other infrastructural facilities.

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Transfer of AIR, DD Staff to Prasar Bharati Corporation

3507. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Transfer of AIR, DD staff to Prasar-Proposals pending before Ministries" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1999; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is guided by the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act.

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Denial of Threat from China

3508. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in the 'Times of India' dated March 22, 1999, under the caption "China denies posing threat to India, calls for dialogue";

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action, if any, taken in regard thereto?