

(b) Some of the important steps taken by the airline to reduce losses are as under :-

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue. (ii) Network rationalisation and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability. (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs. (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished.

Development of Airports In Karnataka

3652. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka have submitted any request seeking financial assistance for the development of airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, sir. However, the following requirement of funds for five airports in Karnataka was projected to the Planning Commission by this Ministry :-

Gulbarga	-	Rs. 50 crores
Mysore	-	Rs. 50 crores
Hubli	-	Rs. 35 crores
Belgaum	-	Rs. 35 crores
Hassan	-	Rs. 25 crores
Total	-	Rs.195 crores

The Planning Commission have informed that the above projects may be considered subject to the availability of funds, the viability of the projects and the *inter-se* priority *vis-a-vis* other airport projects.

Performance of RITES and IRCON

3653. SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the performance RITES and IRCON;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new projects proposed to be taken up by RITES and IRCON during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The performance is evaluated on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed at the beginning of the financial year.

(b) The highlights of the performance of RITES & IRCON are as follows :

RITES :

	(Figures in crores of Rs.)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Revised estimates)
Gross Margin	35.13	29.64	11.40
Turnover	134.73	132.89	128.20
Order Secured	98.60	117.71	*54.00
Dividend	1.00	1.29	Yet to be declared
Rating	Excellent	Excellent	Yet to be decided

IRCON :

	(Figures in crores of Rs.)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Revised estimates)
Gross Margin	56.25	60.55	46.40
Turnover	466.74	459.38	396.50
Order secured	254.17	382.35	*450.00
Dividend	1.98	8.66	Yet to be declared
Rating	Good	Very Good	Yet to be /decided

*As per Budget estimates.

(c) The details of new projects proposed to be taken up by RITES and IRCON during 1999-2000 are as follows :-

RITES :

- Package export of diesel locomotive to Myanmar Railways
- Techno economic feasibility study for inland Waterways/Road Project from Myanmar to Mizoram State.
- Supply of railway rolling stock equipments to Vietnam Railways.