

Specifications —INS Darshak**Main Particulars of the Ship**

(a)	Length	—	87.75 m
(b)	Beam	—	12.80 m
(c)	Draught	—	3.43 m
(d)	Displacement	—	1820 tons
(e)	Complement	—	178 Persons
(f)	Maximum Speed	—	16 Knots

Additional Funds for Andhra Pradesh

1397. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO has sanctioned additional funds to State Government of Andhra Pradesh for various housing projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise; and

(c) the extent by which the additional amount is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) HUDCO's annual housing loan allocation is made amongst the States/UTs in two stages. Fifty percent of the allocation is distributed at the beginning of financial year based on area & population criteria. Based on the demand and performance of the States/UTs as well as area & population, balance 50% is later allocated to States. During the year 1998-99 the initial 50% allocation made to A.P. is Rs. 54.01 crores for housing schemes. As the final allocation based on the States demand is yet to be made, question of sanctioning additional fund does not arise at this stage.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Direct Air India Flight between Hyderabad—Mecca

1398. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has launched a direct non-stop international flight between Hyderabad to Mecca;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to operate twice a week airbus (A-310) flight between Hyderabad and Mecca;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to have direct flight to Singapore from Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the time by which a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Air India has commenced twice weekly operations between Hyderabad and Singapore effective 29th March, 1998.

Expansion of Steel Plants

1399. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector steel plant units which are under expansion and yet to be commissioned;

(b) whether there are any units which have already been commissioned but are lying idle or are working below their utilisation capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The following two Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. are under expansion/modernisation and all planned facilities are yet to be commissioned :

1. Rourkela Steel Plant
2. Bokaro Steel Plant

(b) and (c) The expansion/modernisation programme for Durgapur Steel Plant has already been completed and no unit is lying idle after commissioning. However, the modernised facilities are under stabilisation, therefore, yet to attain their full capacities.

Consignment of Weapons Intercepted by Indian Navy

1400. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consignment of weapons was intercepted by the Indian Navy on Longoff island in the Andamans recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigations have been made to ascertain as to who were the people behind the consignment of weapons and for which country was it destined and the persons for whom to be used; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken to strengthen the air, road and water routes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) In a combined Services

operation conducted by Army, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 10/11 February, 1998, 73 gun runners, two gun boats and two trawlers containing arms and ammunitions were captured.

(c) and (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation has been entrusted with the investigation of the case which is sub-judice. It will not be desirable to disclose any further details at this stage. Appropriate vigilance is being maintained by the Armed Forces for preventing the smuggling of arms in the North Eastern region through sea routes and across the borders with neighbouring countries in this region.

[Translation]

Development of Ranchi Airport

1401. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plane can not land at the Ranchi Airport during the night time;

(b) if so, whether the efforts have been made to provide facility for landing and taking off planes during the night time in view of the demand for the air service in that area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Night landing facilities, including the Instrument Landing System, are available at Ranchi airport. However, night landings are not recommended due to cattle menace and breaches in the compound wall made by the villagers living around the aerodrome. The State Government has been requested to provide adequate security for night landing operations.

[English]

Crash of Cheetah Helicopter

1402. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an army helicopter Cheetah crashed in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh on November 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the persons killed and the causes thereof;

(c) whether a high-level inquiry into this crash had been ordered;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the inquiry; and

(e) the follow-up action of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) An Army Aviation Helicopter, Cheetah

met with an accident in the Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh on the 14th November, 1997.

(b) All the four occupants sustained fatal injuries in the accident. The details of the occupants are as under:

(i) Shri NVN Sommu, the then Minister of State for Defence-Passenger,

(ii) Major General, Ramesh Nagpal, VSM, General Officer Commanding, 5 Mountain Division-Passenger,

(iii) Major PK Agarwal, 21(I) Recce and Observation Flight-Pilot,

(iv) Major PC Sharma, 21(I) Recce and Observation Flight-Co-Pilot.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The composition of the high-level Court of Enquiry is as under :

(1) Presiding Officer : Brigadier (Army Aviation)

(2) Army Aviation : Colonel-1, Major-1, Members

(3) Medical Member : Major-1,

(4) Technical Members : Lt.Col.-1, (Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)

(5) Members in Attendance : (i) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd-2,

(ii) Chief Resident Inspector (Engineer), Directorate General of Approvals and Quality Assurance (DGAQA)-1,

(iii) Chief Resident Inspector (Helicopter), Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA)-1,

(iv) Centre for Mily. Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC)-1.

The Court of Enquiry has been completed; but it has not been able to establish the cause of accident conclusively. The HAL has been asked to make a detailed examination of the debris of engine and the main Gear Box. Necessary follow-up action will be taken by the Government after receipt of the final report.

Private Airlines

1403. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: