

DOUBLING OF CHENGLEPUT-VILLUPURAM RAILWAY LINE (T. N.)

936. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the doubling of railway line between Chengleput and Villupuram in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken in future in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

RULES FOR AIR TAXI OPERATORS

937. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise rules for air taxi operators;

(b) if so, whether he had held any discussions in this regard recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) The representatives of Air Taxi operators were called for a meeting on the 16th July, 1991 with a view to exchange views and ideas and to ascertain their problems. A number of issues were identified ranging from infrastructure facilities at the airports to fiscal and financial matters. They were assured that steps would be taken to tackle them and they would be given a fair opportunity to succeed in their ventures.

COMPUTERISED BOOKING SYSTEM FOR DEHRADUN

938. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a computerised booking system was planned and sanctioned for Dehradun;

(b) whether, after initial installation, the equipment was shifted to another station; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to install computerised booking system in Dehradun immediately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

UPGRADATION OF COCHIN AIRPORT

939. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main runway or the secondary runway of Cochin airport has been extended;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendation made by the technical experts regarding upgradation of the existing Cochin Airport for Airbus operations ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have examined the following options for upgradation of the Cochin Airport which belongs to the Navy :—

(1) Extending the main runway by 2000 feet and strengthening the same for Airbus operations.

(2) Realignment of the secondary runway and extending it by 5000 feet; and

(3) Construction of a new airport at an alternative site.

Of these options, the construction of a new airport was not considered to be a feasible proposition both because of the non-availability of suitable land as well as the very high cost of the project.