

Chitradurga; which will reduce the distance between Tumkur and Davanagere by about 60 kms (road); and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the reduction in distance through the suggested line will be about 25 km.

(b) There is no proposal to undertake construction of the line at present due to constraints of resources.

Airstrip in Darjeeling

5412. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct an airstrip in Darjeeling for the benefit of the foreign visitors; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has suggested the construction of an airstrip at Tiger Hill in Darjeeling. The site was surveyed by the National Airports Authority and it was found that it might be feasible to construct an airstrip of 6500 ft. X 150 ft. suitable for operation of Avro type aircraft at a cost of about Rs. 25 crores. A Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests has, however, not found the site to be suitable from the environmental stand point. The construction of the airstrip depends, inter-alia, on clearance being given by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and adequate funds being made available to the National Airports Authority.

[*Translation*]

Training to employees working on Farakka-Lalmatia railway line

5413. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) the number of employees on Farakka-Lalmatia railway line to whom training has been imparted till date to make them skilled during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the number of employees working for the last three years who have not been imparted the said training so far and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Farakka-Lalmatia Railway line is owned and maintained by the National Thermal Power Corporation, as a private siding.

[*English*]

Air Taxi scheme

5414. DR. G.L. KANAUIA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Air Taxis a near flop" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated August 16, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to make alternative arrangements to air link all district in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not correct to say that the Air Taxi Scheme has failed. Various restrictions in the operation of private air taxis have been removed only recently. The planning for operation of air taxi services, the selection and import of aircraft, recruitment of personnel and establishment of the infrastructure facilities on the part of Private operators do require some time.

It is expected that the scheme will gain momentum in the near future. On its part, Government will provide further facilities for the scheme to succeed.

(c) There is no proposal to link all districts in the country by air. Air services are provided by operators on the basis of operational and commercial feasibility.

Supply of Piped Gas in Bombay

5415. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a subsidiary company of the Gas Authority of India Limited with foreign collaboration for supplying piped gas in Bombay; and

(b) if so, the expenditures likely to be incurred for the purpose and when the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Coaches attached to Jaipur-Rewari Shuttle Trains

5416. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of coaches attached to Jaipur-Rewari shuttle train and the number out of them available for the passengers;

(b) whether passengers have to travel on the roof of the train due to shortage of coaches;

(c) the number of cases of passengers falling from the roof of the coaches on this route during the last three years; year-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the number of coaches attached to this train; and

(e) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN) (a) Normal load of 15 9/160 Rewari-Jaipur Shuttle is five coaches and all the coaches are available for passengers.

(b) and

(c) No such case has come to notice.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As and when more coaches become available from our production units in the coming years.

[*English*]

Harnessing of Tidal wave in Gujarat

5417. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey report has been carried out for the production of tidal wave energy at the Khambat sea Coast of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which this scheme stands at present?