

Based on feasibility studies and detailed project definition the Government accorded sanction in April 1993 for Phase-I of full scale engineering development envisaging induction of LCA into Air Force by 2005. The first indigenous LCA has already been rolled out and is undergoing detailed ground qualification testing to ensure safety of flight. Aircraft is expected to be ready for the first flight in the second quarter of 1999. The project activities are being closely monitored at a very high level so that the development schedule are adhered to and the LCA is inducted into Air Force by the year 2003.

(b) Two additional prototypes of LCA, in addition to technology demonstrators are under build-up during the current phase itself to accelerate flight testing and evaluation so that LCA induction in IAF takes place in the year 2003. In addition, a national team has been constituted to combat recently imposed sanctions.

Bhadravathi Airport

3328. SHRI MANUNATH AYANUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been made to start all weather Vishwashwarya airstrip/Airport at Bhadravathi in Shimoga district of Karnataka ;

(b) if so, whether said Airstrip is quite appropriate for development as Airport; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Technical suitability is being assessed by the Airports Authority of India.

Construction of over-bridge at Thekeraguri

3329. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a railway over-bridge at Thekeraguri near Nagaon in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

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. Proposal is under scrutiny.

(b) and (c) The proposal to construct ROB at Thekeraguri on cost sharing basis is being examined technically. Plan and Estimate are being prepared. However, target will be fixed only after these are sanctioned.

Acquisition of ABB Locom

3330. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly acquired ABB locos (WAP-5) and WAG-9) have been found technically unsuitable for operation and need large scale modifications;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether according to experts, Thyristor locos are more suitable for operations; and

(d) if so, the reasons for placing the orders for AC-3 phase ABB locos ?

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) and (b) No, Sir. ABB locomotives are working important mail/express trains including Rajdhani trains and heavier freight trains and have been performing as per the specifications. However, bases on the actual working conditions, certain minor modifications have been considered necessary on these locomotives which will be incorporated by ABB as per the provision in the Contract.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Thyristor locomotives have not been found suitable for universal operations on Indian Railways as they generated higher harmonic currents which had tendency in interfere with signalling track circuit. On the other hand, locomotives with three phase drive are more efficient and have superior features to provide benefits of lower energy consumption due to regeneration and lesser maintenance cost.

Unauthorised Construction in Paharganj

3331. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2425 on June 11, 1998 regarding Unauthorised Construction and state :

(a) the dates on which the complaints were received and demolition orders were passed under the DDA Act against the persons who carried out unauthorised constructions in the slum area of Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi;

(b) the dates on which directions were given to DDA and Local authorities including MCD to process these cases and initiate action as per the provisions of the Acts;

(c) whether the property adjoining to Nos. 9854, 9855 are also unauthorised;

(d) if so, the facts thereof ;

(e) whether the owner/original allottees/occupants in this slum area can also carry out similar constructions; and