

- (v) Rural Housing-Beyond Indira Awaas Yojana;
- (vi) proposed amendments to the guidelines for Desert Development Programme/Drought Prone Areas Programme;
- (vii) Implementation of the Integrated Wasteland Development Projects - issues;
- (viii) From Panchayats - functioning, accountability and empowerment of Gram Sabhas;
- (ix) Financial powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (x) Issues arising out of implementation of Act 40 of 1996, and
- (ix) Transparency in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

(c) A draft of the decision of taken in the meeting has been sent to the Ministers who attended the meeting with a request confirm the same. The responses received are under examination. Government will take follow up action immediately on all the decisions taken.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Airport at Ajmer

2388. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for construction of an airport at Ajmer (Rajasthan) by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the approval for construction of an air strip in Saradhana Village of Ajmer has already been accorded.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is not very proper to construct an airport at Ajmer keeping in view the likely participation of lakhs of pilgrims on the occasions of Urs Sharif 786 to be held there this year; and

(e) if so, the details of the programme, envisaged by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (e) A site near the village Saradhana 20 Km. South-West of Ajmer city on Ajmer-Bewar road was identified by the Rajasthan Government for construction

of an airport in Ajmer. This site was found suitable by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). However AAI's study indicates that the project is not viable on financial parameters. In the absence of a commitment by the State Government to provide land free of cost, as required under the general policy followed by the AAI, and by the Central Government to provide budgetary support no final decision on the construction of airport at Ajmer has been taken so far. No definite time-frame can, therefore, be indicated at this stage.

[*English*]

Electrification of Trivandrum-Ernakulam Rail Route

2389. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the stage at which the electrification of trivandrum-Ernakulam Railway Route stands at present; and

(b) the reasons for the delay and action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

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 & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The electrification of Trivandrum-Ernakulam section is not yet a sanctioned work.

(b) Does not arise.

Mentioning of Official Name of Airports

2390. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign and domestic airlines do not mention the proper name of airports at the time of their take off or touch down a particular airport, e.g. Indira Gandhi Airport in Delhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Airport in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details of the instructions issued to State-owned airlines and private airlines for encouraging them to use the official name?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Announcement of the name of the airport during take-off or touch-down is for the sake of passenger facilitation. All airline operators are required to mention complete and proper name of the airport in these announcements. The Director General of Civil Aviation has been directed to reiterate this requirement through an advisory to all domestic/international operators.