

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought clearance for giving Mysore Airport to private sector for development and operation; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Production of Gold**

2409. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new gold reserve areas has been discovered during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the production of gold during 1997-98 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has established gold ore reserves in the following areas during 1994-97.

**KARNATAKA:** Hira Buddini (Raichur district), Chinmulgund and Nagavi (Dharwar district), aijanash west and G.R. Halli South Block (Chitradurga district).

**ANDHRA PRADESH:** Dona Temple (Kurnool district) and Kudithanapale (district).

**RAJASTHAN:** Anandpuri-Bhukia (Banswara district).

**MADHYA PRADESH:** Gurharpahar West (Sidhi district).

**MAHARASHTRA:** Parsori West Block and Kitari Block (Nagpur district).

**KERALA:** Kappil (Malappuram district).

(c) production of gold in the country for the year 1997-98 is 2636 Kg.

#### **Upgradation of Calicut Airport**

2410. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any more Airports as International Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to upgrade the facilities at Calicut Airport in view of the International flights landing there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the Policy on Airport Infrastructure declared in December, 1997 airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Guwahati can be added to the list of international airports as and when the facilities are upgraded to the desired level.

(c) AAI has commissioned a separate international terminal block having all modern facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 crores to cater to the needs of 200 incoming and 200 outgoing international passengers at a time. The old terminal building has been modified to serve as a temporary cargo complex at the cost of Rs. 80.68 lakhs. AAI has taken up the work of strengthening and extension of existing runway towards the eastern side at an estimated cost of Rs. 102.80 crores for operation of AB-300 type of aircraft. The work is expected to be completed by January, 2000.

#### **Night Flight of Alliance Air**

2411. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Alliance Air has decided to introduce a night flight between Delhi and Bangalore and vice-versa;

(b) if so, whether the Bangalore Airport authorities have agreed to the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Alliance Air had plans to operate night flights to Bangalore. The proposal has, however, been deferred due to operational constraints.

#### **Quota of Wagons for Transportation of Matches and Fire Crackers**

2412. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has given any concession for transporting of handmade matches and fire crackers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allot quota of wagons for transporting of handmade matches and fire crackers from Sivakasi - Kovilpatti - Virudhu Nagar to Northern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, the demands are being met in full.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Procurement of Wagons**

2413. SHRI A. C. JOS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of wagons procured under "Own Your Wagon Scheme" by the railways during each of the last three years and the current financial year 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): The information is furnished below:

Year	No. Of wagons procured (in terms of four wheeler units)
1995-96	2625
1996-97	5992.5
1997-98	3015
1998-99 (upto April-98)	135

[Translation]

#### **Gauge Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga Rail Line**

2414. SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to convert the Ranchi-Lohardaga metro gauge railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the funds provided therefor during the current financial year; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be commenced?

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.

(b) Rs. 10 crores.

(c) The preliminary work has already commenced.

[English]

#### **Defence Laboratories**

2415. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's defence laboratories are likely to increase inter-action with the universities soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes in this regard are being worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Towards building up technological competence. Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has partnership with more than 40 Indian academic institutions and universities. This partnership will be further extended to many more institutions with a view to undertake joint advanced research in areas applicable to defence technology.

(c) and (d) DRDO has two approaches for undertaking joint R&D work with academic institutions and universities;

(i) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

(ii) Contracts for development projects.

Funding for such R&D projects is done through DRDO's Research & Training (R&T) Scheme and Grants-in-Aid Scheme and also through major R&D programmes. In addition, such projects are also sponsored through four research boards in the areas of Aeronautics, Naval R&D, Armaments and Life Sciences. These boards award focused projects in the frontier areas of technologies in their respective fields.