

*[Translation]***Suspension of Flights by Private Operators**

1903. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of daily flights of private air taxis operated for Bhunter, Shimla and Gagal in Himachal Pradesh during the last three months separately;

(b) whether all the air taxis, except 'Jaigson' air taxi have kept suspended their flights for the last one month;

(c) if so, the reasons of suspending the flights of these air taxis; and

(d) the alternate arrangements made by the Government to provide facilities to the passengers and tourists?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Details of flights operated by various operators to/from Shimla and Kullu during September to November, 1998 are given in the enclosed statement. No operator is operating any flight to/from Gaggal airport.

(b), (c) and (d) M/s Archana Airways could not operate its scheduled flights during November, 1998 due to non-availability of operational aircraft. However, its operations are likely to be resumed during the current month. Flights of M/s Jagson Airlines have remained suspended from 29th November, 1998 due to non-availability of pilots.

Statement

Details of flights operated to/from Shimla and Kullu during September to November, 1998

| Sector | Archana Airways | | | Jagson Airlines | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | Sept. 98 | Oct. 98 | Nov. 98 | Sept. 98 | Oct. 98 | Nov. 98 |
| Delhi/Kullu | 22 | 21 | - | 20 | 48 | 23 |
| Kullu/Delhi | 23 | 21 | - | 20 | 48 | 23 |
| Delhi/Shimla | 1 | - | - | 14 | 12 | 7 |
| Shimla/Delhi | - | - | - | - | 12 | 7 |
| Shimla/Kullu | 1 | - | - | 14 | - | - |

*[English]***Construction of Chennai-Kanniyakumari Rail Line**

1904. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the expeditious steps taken by the Government to operate the important broad gauge railway service operation from Chennai to Kanniyakumari via Villupuram, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai; and

(b) the time by which the said line is likely to be completed?

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) Broad Gauge trains from Chennai to Tiruchirapalli (via Villupuram) and to Kanniyakumari (via Erode-Karur) are already available. At present, passengers bound for Kanniyakumari can also avail of connecting trains from Madurai. Broad Gauge trains from Chennai to Madurai/Tuticorin/Tirunelveli can be introduced only after the gauge conversion works on Tiruchirapalli-Manaparai-Dindigul section are over. The line is due for completion by Jan., 1999.

Night Landing Facility at Trivandrum Airport

1905. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided day-and-night landing facilities at the Trivandrum International Airport;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shopping Complex, Vasant Vihar

1906. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates have started charging heavy licence fee from allottees of shops in shopping complex of Central Government Housing