

(b) if so, the details regarding the plan of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Vayudoot is presently operating its services with its own Dornier aircraft and F-27 and HS-748 aircraft leased from Indian Airlines. The capacity of the F-27 and HS-748 is 40 and 48 respectively. Vayudoot has projected the need for acquiring two 40-50 seater aircraft during the Seventh Plan period, one each in 1987-88 and 88-89.

(b) Government have not taken a decision in this regard.

**Introduction of Vayudoot Service to West Bengal Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Malda in West Bengal**

\*220. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for introducing Vayudoot air service to district headquarters of West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Malda in West Bengal for the improvement of communication facility in this region ; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which the Vayudoot service will be introduced in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). Suggestions received from time to time for introducing Vayudoot services to the district headquarters of West Dinajpur, Malda and Jalpaiguri have been considered and it was decided that these services will not be introduced in the first phase of the expansion plans of Vayudoot. Vayudoot has been asked to undertake a traffic survey of these stations. Services to these stations would, however, be considered for introduction subject to viability of operations, deve-

lopment of the requisite infrastructure and availability of suitable spare aircraft capacity. The likely date, by which Vayudoot services to these stations might be introduced, cannot be indicated at this stage.

**Fate of Silicon Deal**

1173. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister is to decide the fate of silicon deal (Times of India, 21 February, 1985); and

(b) whether the claims made by Mettur Chemicals have been confirmed by Secretary, Scientific and Industrial Research and if so, whether Government will entrust this job to the firm as a part of national self-reliance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Department of Electronics had finalised its technical collaboration agreement with M/s Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, USA. The required import clearance from US Government had not been received till November 1984; in the meantime some information was brought to the notice of the Department of Electronics in November, 1984. These inputs were studied in depth and the decision has now been taken that the Department of Electronics will take steps to acquire the process know-how, basic engineering and proprietary equipment from M/s Hemlock. Simultaneously, full support would be given to indigenous development efforts to establish the technology on a commercial basis.

The claims made by Mettur Chemicals regarding availability of cost effective indigenous technology as an alternative for setting up the polysilicon plant of National Silicon Facility, have been examined in detail by Secretary, Depart-