

(a) whether large number of inland and foreign tourists experience hardship due to non-availability of air journey facility from Bangalore to Mysore; and

(b) whether Government propose to improve the existing airport at Mysore and run domestic flights from Bangalore to Mysore and back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) : Mysore is at a distance of 139 kms. from Bangalore and the two cities are well connected by rail and road. The travelling public should not experience any difficulty in travelling between the two cities in the absence of a shuttle air service between Mysore and Bangalore. Vayudoot has, however, airlinked Mysore and Bangalore with a thrice weekly Dornier service on the route Hyderabad/Tirupathi/Mysore/Bangalore with effect from 8th April, 1985.

Proposal for Relief to Persons Coming A from Srilanka

*483. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has approached Central Government for relief to be provided to persons coming from Sri Lanka during the last three-four months; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the quantity of rice and other foodgrain so far supplied to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The entire expenditure in this regard is being met by the Government of India. However, no proposal has been received from the State Government for the supply of rice and other foodgrains either by the Ministry of Home Affairs or by the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.

Applications for Passport

*484. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether over five thousand passport applications are pending disposal at the Regional Passport Office at Cochin (since January, 1985);

(b) the reasons for such long delay in the issue of passports;

(c) whether Government's policy is to process the passport applications and issue passports within seven days; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure the issue of passport in seven days from Cochin Regional Passport Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KURSHED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for delay is attributable to delay in receipt of verification reports from the State Police authorities.

(c) No, Sir. Instructions were given to PIAs to issue passports within seven days from the receipt of clear police reports and not from the date of receipt of passport applications.

(d) Passports in Cochin Office are being issued within the prescribed time frame.

Commercial Pilots in I.A.A.I.

*485. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of unemployed commercial pilots appointed by the IAAI as Airport Officers since 1982;

(b) whether some of the appointed officers belong to the category of ex-tervicesmen of Indian Air Force and Army;

(c) whether services of some of the officers are being terminated; and