

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Actually, as I said in the beginning, the idea of operating Vayudoot services was not based on the population of a State. It is because the Indian Airlines is there to do that. But the Vayudoot services were started specifically as feeder service to help national integration in the North East region. After that, they started the Vayudoot services to other sectors also where they thought that it was a feasible commercial venture. In some of those places, the services were successful. And in some places where the services were not successful, they have been closed down.

In Andhra Pradesh, I believe, we are starting our Vayudoot services and one aircraft will be posted in Hyderabad.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has stated in his reply that excepting Vayudoot, other routs running in loss could be closed down. I want to say that talks are going on for the last 2-3 years for starting Vayudoot services in Sanchi, Kanha, Jagdalpur in Madhya Pradesh which is the biggest State. May I know whether the Government propose to consider the proposal this year or next year 1985-86, in view of the their importance as places of tourist attraction ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : There is no such proposal at present. But it will be looked into next year. It will not be possible to take the plane to a place like Kanha because it can disturb the wild life there.

DR RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Allahabad had played a prominent role in the freedom struggle but even after so many years there is no daily air service for Allahabad. I want to know from the Prime Minister whether he would make arrangements for daily air service to Allahabad at least during this centenary year, keeping in view the interest of the people there ?

MR. SPEAKER : Which service, Vayudoot or some other service ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We will consider both the services.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Just now, the hon. Prime Minister has mentioned that the Vayudoot services have been commenced for the national integration. In view of the fact that the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is also one of the inaccessible areas, may I know whether the Vayudoot service from Port Blair to Car Nicobar would be introduced ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We can have a look at this.

Plan for New Airports in Cochin, Mysore and Calicut

*102. **SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to plan new airports in Cochin and Mysore;

(b) whether the proposed airport at Cochin would be an international airport; and

(c) whether another airport at Calicut is practicable in view of increasing gulf traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The runway at the existing Cochin airport is not fit for Air Bus operations which are contemplated by the Indian Airlines. There are problems in extending the runway to make it suitable for the purpose. DGCA has, therefore, approached the local revenue authorities for identifying a suitable site for the construction of a new airport. Subject to availability of a suitable site and resources, the development of a new civil airport at Cochin to receive Airbus aircraft will be considered.

There is no plan to construct a new airport at Mysore. The existing airport at Mysore will be developed to make it suitable for Vayudoot services.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) A new airport at Calicut suitable for Boeing 737 operations is being constructed which will adequately meet the traffic demand of the area.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, in Cochin there was a proposal to start a new airport at Edakattuvayal or Shertalai. The proposal was there and it was under the consideration of the Government much earlier. At present, the airport is working at the naval area, defence area in Cochin. Though this airport was developed, still the airbuses are not landing in Cochin. The same difficulties which were there earlier are being felt now. An aircraft which is to land in Cochin airport has to take a U-turn passing over Cochin and then come back and land. There are no traffic facilities for evening take-off or night landing in Cochin.

In the Cochin airport, about 95% of the traffic is to and from abroad, i.e. from Dubai and other Gulf countries and other countries also. They are feeling much difficulty in their travel because of the inadequate traffic facilities in Kerala, especially in Cochin airport. Therefore, I request the Government to consider the report of the Technical Committee which was submitted earlier, and a new airport be constructed at the earliest possible opportunity so as to avoid difficulties of the air travelling public in Kerala.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking into consideration what the hon. Member has said, a uni-directional operation can be there. D.G.C.A. personnel went there and have gone into all the possibilities. Uni-directional operation can be arranged there on account of technical reasons. The revenue authority has been contacted in this connection. If another site is made available there, the proposal for constructing a new airport can be considered. We have set apart Rs. 20 lakhs in the Seventh Five Year Plan for this purpose. Our effort is to get the new site allotted so that this work could be started soon.

[*English*]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : This

airport has to be planned in such a way to make it an international airport. Earlier, it was suggested to make Trivandrum airport as an international airport. But in a previous answer, it was stated by the Government that there was no proposal to make Trivandrum airport as an international airport. In that case, my suggestion is to make Cochin airport as an international one and commence the development work accordingly. Keeping that in mind, the development work in the beginning itself may be laid down on that basis.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been receiving demands for international airports from many quarters. I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is not necessary that international flights are permitted from an airport only after it has been declared an international airport. International flights take off from Trivandrum airport. Our ministry has appointed a committee on instructions from the Prime Minister to look into the congestion problem at Bombay airport and how to minimise it. This Committee is looking into this aspect also as to which airports can be used as international airports. It is, not therefore necessary to declare an airport as international airport.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Is the Government considering to set up international airport at Hyderabad ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, this is about Cochin airport.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan let the member from Kerala get a chance.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBE : West Bengal also.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you concerned about Cochin ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBE : Cochin and Calcutta both.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : My supplementary relates to part (c) of the

Question. In this very House, during the days of Provisional Parliament, in 1950, Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai gave a promise regarding Calicut airport. It is 35 long years now. In 1980, in this very House, they said that the construction of this airport for which we have been agitating for long would commence. It did commence and it was to be completed in 1982 and open for traffic. But we are in the year of grace of 1985 and still I find that there is hardly any work going on there. This is an area of the highest traffic density. Most of the passengers originating in Cochin or Mangalore or Coimbatore come from this airport because of the Gulf traffic. May I, therefore, know from the Prime Minister what exactly are the difficulties and when it would be finally commissioned?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, previously, the proposed airport was intended only to receive avro-services but later on it was decided that Boeing services should also be operated from this airport and now the work is being done in two phases. The work which is going on in phase one will be completed by June-July and thereafter by December, '87 it will started.

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : What exactly are the difficulties?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : The area is rocky and filling-work is going on.

[*English*]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN : That has been filled up. I request the hon. Minister to visit the place.

MR. SPEAKER : After doing away with the difficulty, they are processing it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Everybody knows that the promise of Calicut airport goes back to 1950.

MR. SPEAKER : That has already been answered.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Now the work is moving in a very slow pace. I want

to know from the hon. Minister whether Vayudoot services can be made from Madras and Mangalore to Calicut. What we are asking for is only a small air strip for the people of Kerala. It is only a temporary arrangement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : No such proposal is under consideration.

[*English*]

Dr. K.G. ADIYODI : There was an assurance that the Calicut airport would be ready by 1985, but the assurance was shifted to 1987. But now the work has been stopped due to paucity of funds. Will the Government take urgent action in this regard?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : I assure the hon. Member that there is no paucity of funds. Rs. 39.20 lakhs were spent in 1982-83, Rs. 137.50 lakhs were spent in 1983-84 and Rs. 1 crore are likely to be spent in 1984-85. This has been included in the Seventh Plan. We are providing all the required funds. There will not be any delay even for a single day due to paucity of funds.

[*English*]

Uniformity in retirement age of State Government and Central Government Employees

*103. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring uniformity in the retirement age of the State Government and the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b). No such proposal is under consideration of the Government. As 'State Public Services' are included in the List