

up to contradict what you have said! I have got up to understand and to do my best to see that the organisations also do their best to see that the difficulties don't arise. What I am trying to say is that the expansion has taken place, the compounds have to be constructed and if you have to have lights on the runway, the electricity is to be supplied by the State Government. If the electricity supply is not there what is necessary...

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: The runway lights were covered by grass. The lights were not visible.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Don't be too touchy. What I am saying is that at times, it is not possible for the State Government also to supply power regularly.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Why do you not have your own power? (Interruptions) Do not depend upon the State Government of power.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: At times it is not possible for the State Government also to supply the power regularly. That is why, we have ordered the oil engines to be put up there. But we cannot have oil engines all over the place at once and the same time put up. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: The runway was converted by grass. What prevented the Authority from getting the grass cut?

MR. SPEAKER: You do not get agitated like this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am explaining the difficulty... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get agitated. It might hurt you. Then what do I do?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The power supply has to be provided primarily by the State Governments. Wherever we have

found that it is not regular we have ordered oil engines to be put up. But getting this done takes some time and money also. We are looking into all these aspects.

[Translation]

#### Air Service in Eastern Region of Bihar

\*457. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of flights of Indian Airlines in eastern areas of Bihar has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the number of flights is proposed to be increased to provide better transport facility in eastern sector; and

(d) if so, when these are likely to start operation?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). Due to capacity constraints with effect from the 17th January, 1989, Indian Airlines flight IC-487/488 operating on the Delhi-Patna-Guwahati and return sector was changed to operate Delhi-Guwahati-Delhi omitting Patna. With effect from the 1st of April, 1989, this flight has been restored to operate to Patna.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his commendable work. But besides Patna and Ranchi in Bihar, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur are two other major business centres. Whether the hon. Minister propose to consider the proposal to link these cities by air-services in the next plan. The hon. Minister may kindly give information in this regard to the House.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** As regards the matter raised by the hon. lady Member, I would like to submit that the Government have full sympathy about it but it would not be foresightedness to give an assurance to the House in this regard, because we have already faced a number of difficulties to restore air-services for Patna. It was only after a lot of efforts that we succeeded in it. However, the Government intends to cover the maximum number of places under our air-service network, only after the induction of new aircrafts. We have to keep in view the safety measures and many other things in this regard. On our part, we would try to make our all out efforts, yet the hon. Members should not treat this statement of mine as my assurance.

**SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:** I would like to inform the hon. Minister that because of bad weather in the eastern regions, great problems are faced in case of vayudoot air-services and even travellers have to face a lot of inconvenience on that account whether the Government are in the process of developing some technique to ensure safe landing of the aircrafts even in bad weather. Whether certain efforts are being made in that direction. Secondly, the passengers face a great difficulty when they are stranded anywhere in that region. We, the Members of the House also experienced the same situation during our visit to Guwahati. Our flight was late by 10 hours and we found ourselves to be in great difficulty as there was neither any rest house to stay in nor good meals were available. Whether the Government propose to take effective measures in order to provide adequate facilities to the passengers. If so, detailed information may kindly be given about those measures.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, some time back, you had stated in this august House that the Government had been making efforts to be more vigilant about the safety measures regarding the air-services. The Government has been acting accordingly. It is but natural that these preventive measures might cause a little delay

in certain flights. I apologies for the same because safety measures have to be given utmost importance. But so far as, the provision of more facilities is concerned, the Government would make efforts in that regard.

**SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA:** In the real sense, there is no provision of either any rest house or good meals. Please ask the hon. Minister to provide these facilities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do not pay much attention to food.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, previously only two flights were available during the whole day from Patna to that region. The passengers from that side too faced similar inconvenience. The flight via Patna has been restored again. It would give considerable relief to the passengers. Ranchi is an important station. But as there is no facility of night-halt, sometimes in case of delay of even one hour, the flights for Calcutta via Patna-Ranchi do not touch Ranchi and go direct to Calcutta. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the steps which are being taken to provide the facility of night halt at Ranchi, which is in fact the second capital city of Bihar. *(Interruptions)*...

*[English]*

**SHRI ANIL BASU:** I am supporting this question because the flights are not landing at Ranchi and overflying...*(Interruptions)*...

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** They are all asking me to fly aircraft to too many places. Well, we try our best to provide the facilities....*(Interruptions)*...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Safety first, flight afterwards.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** We try our

best to fly. But it is no assurance.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR: I am grateful to the hon. Minister for restoring the flights in my area after I wrote a letter to him which has been otherwise kept suspended for 2-3 days. But I would like to know that though the original allocation for Bhuj airport was about Rs. 3 crores but just now the hon. Minister mentioned here that the Government propose to spend only Rs. 10 lakh for the purpose. The hon. Minister should clarify why the funds have been reduced from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 10 lakh only.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I want a separate notice for this.

[Translation]

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has provided the Vayudoot services for Dhanbad and Gaya, besides, the city of Ranchi and Patna in Bihar. But the experience shows that the passengers who have got their tickets booked are not certain about the availability of flights and thus they keep on waiting in Dhanbad. I have myself faced the same situation. I got the ticket in Calcutta and kept on waiting there for a long time. But the flight did not reach there. So the Government should take measures to ensure the availability of flights in Dhanbad on their scheduled days. Communication facilities are also inadequate in Dhanbad. Whether the hon. Minister would tell us the exact time by which adequate communication facilities would be provided at the Dhanbad airport so that at least the passengers might get the exact information regarding the arrival of the flight.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have been submitting in the House as well as outside the House that the Government have only 46 aircrafts for vayudoot services which are generally pressed into service all over India. In such matters, we require your

full sympathy.

MR. SPEAKER: It has my full sympathy.

[English]

#### Naval Academy, Ezhimala

\*458. SHRI VAIKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received request from Government of Kerala that some of the construction works assigned to the State Government be treated as part of the Naval Academy Project at Ezhimala and be undertaken by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have been informed that the matter would be reviewed after the cost of the various works become available, on completion of on-going studies at the Central Water and Power Research Station Pune.

SHRI VAIKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Sir, for establishing Naval Academy at Ezhimala, the State Government had already made available land to an extent of 955.1397 hectares free of cost. The cost of acquisition of this land itself comes to about Rs. 24 crores. Some parties from whom the lands were acquired had approached Court for higher compensation. So, the actual expenditure will still go high. Formerly the State Government had agreed to provide the infrastructural facilities. Rs. 60 crores will be required for that also. Now the Naval Academy Authorities want the State Government to construct a sea wall approximately about