

Airport in Bijapur, Karnataka

3330. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered "Gol Gumbaz" whispering gallery at Bijapur in Karnataka as a Tourist Centre;

(b) whether there is any proposal to declare it as a Tourist Centre;

(c) whether in view of its being a foreign tourist attraction, there is any proposal to construct an air strip/airport there; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) Bijapur has been considered as a tourist centre, for phased development with the combined resources of both the Centre and the State and the private sector. India Tourism Development Corporation is operating a Travellers Lodge with 10 beds at Bijapur.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Civil Aviation Department for constructing an air strip/airport at Bijapur in Karnataka.

Acquisition of Air Bus for Air India and Boeing for Indian Airlines

3331. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is under the consideration of Government to acquire air bus for Air India and Boeing for Indian Airlines;

(b) whether both the airlines are thinking of placing order for aircraft and spares separately; and

(c) the reason for not combining the transactions jointly to effect economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) Air India has signed with the approval of Government an agreement with M/s. Airbus Industries for the purchase of 6 Airbus A310—300 aircraft. Indian Airlines have placed with the approval of Government a letter of intent on M/s. Boeing Company for the purchase of 12 Boeing 757 aircraft. Government have yet to take a final decision on their aircraft acquisition proposal.

(c) The aircraft requirements of the two airlines is based on the nature of operations undertaken by them and as such, it is not always feasible to combine the transactions.

Additional Passenger Aircrafts for IA and AI

3332. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :
SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to add some passenger aircrafts to Indian Airlines and Air India's existing fleet;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the expenditure involved; and

(c) the extent to which the existing capacity in the IA and AI fleet is presently being utilised and how does the present utilisation of the capacity justify buying more aircraft for the two major air carriers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India has signed an agreement with M/s. Airbus Industries on 8th April, 1985 for the purchase, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 541.90 crores, of 6 Airbus A 310-300 aircraft to be delivered progressively from April 1986 to December 1986. Indian Airlines has placed a letter of intent with M/s. Boeing Company for the purchase of 12 Boeing 757 aircraft