

of the Government whether the runway should be extended or whether a parallel runway can be constructed there.

So far as the question of extension of the runway is concerned, it is likely to cost more or less the same amount as it will cost for constructing a parallel runway. Therefore, the question of construction of a parallel runway at Mangalore is under consideration of the Government and the survey has been conducted in this regard.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** My specific question is what would be the cost of the runway. Not only that. It has been brought to the notice of the authorities, by the Commercial Pilots Association that the basic navigational facilities are absent at Mangalore airport. If that is so, what are the basic navigational facilities that have been provided? What efforts have been made in this regard? Not only that. What amount has been granted for the development works at Mangalore airport and also for the construction of the building? May I know from the Hon. Minister the actual cost of the runway that is going to be constructed?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** The cost of the construction of a parallel runway can only be known after the survey is conducted and the estimate is prepared. But the intention of the Government is, no doubt, to construct a parallel runway to meet the present difficulty there.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:** It is not a question of Mangalore only. In most of the airports, runways are in the worst condition and they are not in a position to receive the Jets also. In view of this, what is the thinking of the Ministry about the construction and re-construction of most of the airports for receiving the fast-growing traffic?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** A general survey of all the airports in this

country is being conducted from time to time to find out the deficiencies or difficulties on the particular airports and I would like to assure the Hon. Member that wherever such difficulties are found, steps would be taken to improve the facilities and also to improve the runway and the airport so that the present difficulties, if any, should be removed.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Exploration of Gold in Orissa

\*505. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for exploration of gold fields in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated yield of gold in Orissa?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)** (a): The Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Mining and Geology, Government of Orissa, are engaged in exploration for gold in parts of Orissa State.

(b): The current explorations are of a preliminary nature. Reserves of gold will be known only after completion of the detailed investigations.

### Difficulty Experienced by Engineering Exporters

\*506. **SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Engineering exporters are facing difficulty due to recent twenty per cent hike in steel prices;

(b) whether it is proposed to liberalise the scheme for distribution of