

CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: (a) and (b). A detailed survey has been made for examining the feasibility of constructing a second runway suitable for regular Boeing 737 operations and further development for bigger aircraft operations. For conducting further extensive survey and detailed investigation an estimate amounting to Rs. 2,57,807 is under consideration.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Mangalore is a very important city. This airport is there since 1951 and the load-factor on the Bombay-Mangalore route has always been over 70 per cent—one of the few routes. But this Government has taken the city backwards. There used to be Boeing flights to Mangalore. There are now only Avro flights and there is a large-scale black-marketing in tickets. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government, in view of such large public sector projects like Kudremukh, the Port, the fertiliser plant, the steel plant, all this—you have neglected the whole State of Karnataka, Mangalore, in this regard—whether they can lay down a deadline by which they will complete the expansion of Mangalore airport so that Air Buses can fly there.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): I cannot say about the flying of Air Bus to Mangalore. But certainly there is a Boeing service practically for 8 or 9 months in a year. Only during the rainy season, Boeing cannot go there, to Mangalore and a small aircraft HS 478 is operating. My hon. colleague has already answered the question that a detailed study is being made.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Deadline?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: We are certainly going to examine this question seriously. I may also inform the hon. Member that in the Sixth Plan (1980-

85), a sum of Rs. 2.50 crores is being proposed for the construction of the airport.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I thank the hon. Minister for giving a very clear and candid reply. Please give a clear and candid reply to the second question also.

Since 1972, Mangalore has been the best candidate for the international status. A large number of people go from Mangalore abroad. I would like to know whether there is any proposal in the mind of the Government to convert Mangalore into an international airport.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: No, Sir.

Beautification of Digha Sea-Beach (West Bengal)

*907. **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government of India to make the Digha Sea-Beach (Midnapore-West) attractive to the visitors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Sir, I am rather surprised at the answer of the hon. Minister. Digha is the most important and beautiful sea beach in our country. Even aeroplanes can land there. The Ex-Chief Minister of West Bengal, late Dr. B. C. Roy, had a good idea of developing Digha complex to attract the peoples to visit that place. That was the dream of late Dr. B. C. Roy. The Central Government is now saying

that they have got no proposal for the beautification of that place. In this context, may I ask the hon. Minister what the Central Government has done for the beautification of Digha and what proposals they have got for the beautification of this place?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): I agree with my friend that Digha is a very beautiful place. It is no doubt a tourist centre, but the importance of this tourist centre is so much that even the State Government has not made any such proposal. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Does the Hon. Minister know that the State Government has done a lot of things there? The Central Government is also thinking of linking Digha with the railway lines. Yesterday, while answering a question, the Railway Minister said that a railway link line will be constructed to connect Digha with the nearest railway station. A lot of people visit that place. So my pointed question to the Hon. Minister is whether the Central Government is thinking of constructing an ITDC [Hotel] there and an artificial lake, to attract people from different areas to that place?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: There was a meeting of the Tourism Ministers held in November 1978 in New Delhi and the Central Government invited proposals from the State Governments. My hon. friend would see that, in the recommendation of the West Bengal Government, Digha is not included. Only three other places are there for

creating facilities, these being Sandakphu-Phalut trekking Ayodhya hills, and Sunderbans. Digha is not included. But I want to inform him that there are many other private hotels there in Digha and, for the present the Central Government does not propose to have any other hotel there.

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Rubber Industry's refusal to use rubber imported by STC

***908. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:**

SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rubber industry has refused to use the natural rubber imported by State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor.

(c) what is the quantity of natural rubber imported and lying for want of purchases with the STC and since when; and

(d) what is Government's plan to dispose of the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Quantity of rubber imported
(Since September, 1978)

Stocks lying with S.T.C.

47,350 tonnes.

The unlifted stocks as on 6-8-1980 which have been with STC for about 9 months are 6631 tonnes.