

representatives of State Governments from time to time. Ministers incharge of different States attend our conferences and we impress upon them to submit their schemes regarding landless people in their respective States for Centre's approval. The hon. Member has rightly said that in some States, the progress in this field is negligible. In spite of this, we are making our best efforts. Secondly, the year 1987-88 has not yet ended and it will be our endeavour to allot houses to maximum number of people by the end of this year.

Vayudoot Service for Jagdalpur, M.P.

*126. SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the requisite infrastructure has been created to link Jagdalpur in Madhya Pradesh with Vayudoot service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Jagdalpur will be airlinked with Vayudoot service ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The requisite infrastructure to airlink Jagdalpur in Madhya Pradesh has not yet been created.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Subject to availability of adequate aircraft capacity, Vayudoot has plans to airlink Jagdalpur after the necessary infrastructural facilities are created and the airport is declared fit for operations. No definite date for commencing the air services can be indicated at this stage.

[Translation]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in reply to my question, has stated that Vayudoot service cannot be introduced because the requisite infrastructure facilities to connect Jagdalpur with air service have not so far been built. He has further stated that no definite date about starting the air service can

be stated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the year in which the runway construction work was started at Jagdalpur. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the construction work of runway at Bilaspur was also started alongwith the construction of Jagdalpur runway and it has been completed now. What are the reasons for delaying the work at Jagdalpur and why the work of construction was not completed ? I would like to inform that a Japanese team, which had come in connection with Baladila Project, had landed on this ground in its Boeing aircraft. Smt. Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India, had also landed once on this ground alongwith her Boeing aircraft during her Orissa visit. In spite of that, what are the reasons for not building the requisite infrastructure facilities so far for landing Vayudoot Service ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : On receipt of demand from the hon. Member, a team consisting of the Managing Director, Vayudoot, a Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, a representative of the National Airport Authority of India and the Director General, Civil Aviation was sent there on 20-9-1987. It was asked to inspect the site and report to Government as to the time by which the work can be completed. On reaching the site, the team came to learn that out of 150 feet long runway, only 50 feet has been surfaced. It is not fit for landing the Dornier aircraft. Thereafter, the State Government was asked to complete the surfacing work upto 75 feet and make the runway available for operation. They accepted our proposal and assured that they will re-surface the runway by the end of November. Thereafter, it was noticed that there is no parameter wall around the airport. The P.W.D. was asked to look into this work and they assured to complete it by mid-November. There was no terminal building also at that site. They were asked to construct a temporary infrastructure so that the Vayudoot Service could be introduced at the earliest. The State Government agreed to this proposal also. Besides, a National Highway runs through the runway and it was necessary to divert the route of the highway away from the runway. I was talking to the officers of the Ministry yesterday. They stated that the air service will operate once in a week. Hence a barrier will be set up

there because the highway route cannot be changed. Now the State Government have assured that all arrangements will be made by the end of November. Thereafter, the team was sent again. A meeting was also held in my office on 12th October. The last meeting was held on 27th October. If State Government completes all the arrangements by the end of November, the Government will start Dornier service from 5th December. Now the State Government have informed that they will complete the work by 5th December. If all these works are completed by 5th December, the air service will start operating from 10th December.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this work has not been done and as a result, the people of Bastar are facing inconvenience in communications which is an obstacle in its progress. In view of Government's decision to link Jagdalpur and Bilaspur, will it start air service first in Bilaspur and later in Jagdalpur or simultaneously at both the places? Will the Government take a decision to start the service first at Jagdalpur?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : We will start the air service first in Jagdalpur because it is in the tribal area. We wish to introduce the service at the earliest. This will give me much pleasure.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the fact that landing facility has already been provided in Bilaspur, and also in view of Government's proposal to start air service from Delhi to Bhopal, Bhopal to Bilaspur and Bilaspur to Jagdalpur, will the Government start the service in Bilaspur because Bilaspur is also a tribal area, and the landing facility in Jagdalpur is not yet ready?

Secondly, the Government wants to extend air service from Delhi to Bhopal and Bilaspur. Will it be extended upto Khajuraho so that Khajuraho could be connected by air service with Bhopal, the State Capital, and Chhatisgarh also. This will provide direct facility to tourists wishing to reach Khajuraho.

MR. SPEAKER : You give this suggestion in writing.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, I shall look into this suggestion.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the hon. Minister, Vayudoot Service will be extended to all those places in the states where these arrangements have been made. If so, will the hon. Minister introduce Vayudoot service for places like Patna-Dhanbad-Jamshedpur.

MR. SPEAKER : You submit the suggestion in writing.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Vayudoot Service be extended to district Jhunjhunu and its adjoining district Sikar, because all facilities for operating Vayudoot Service are available there?

MR. SPEAKER : Please send a written suggestion.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Sir, my question is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall take up your question later.

[English]

Hospital for Beedi Workers in Farrukhabad District (U.P.)

*127. **SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received a request for construction of a hospital for Beedi workers at Gursahaiganj in Farrukhabad District;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) if no request has been received, whether Union Government propose suo moto to establish a hospital for these beedi workers in view of their long outstanding hardships on account of lack of basic medical facilities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under examination,

(c) and (d) Do not arise,