

hard to the Government to improve but no action has been taken. There are many places like Beelgoan and Chungajan in Surupathal in Assam where there is no level crossing and the people living there are finding it very hard to cross the railway lines as there is no level crossing. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he is taking any step to construct a level crossing particularly at these places in Assam ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Individual cases will have to be inquired into separately. I will certainly look into this matter and furnish the information to the Hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhav Reddi — from one 'Madhav' to another 'Madhav'.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The Hon. Minister was taking shelter under the criteria laid down by the Railway Ministry long time ago regarding providing manned crossings. I would like to know whether it is so much necessary to stick to this criteria when the policy of the Railway Ministry was announced earlier that in a phased manner the Ministry should abolish all these unmanned crossings and convert them into manned crossings. In view of this, I would like to know, how many unmanned level crossings still exist in this country, where accidents occur.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Totally, there are 15,000 manned crossings approximately and about 25,000 unmanned level crossings. The manning of level crossings is taken up on a very selective basis. The criteria have been laid down for this very purpose. So, we try to proceed according to the criteria

If you want to man the entire 25,000 level crossings, the cost would be in the range of Rs. 450-500 crores.

Workshop on Airport Management

*166. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-day workshop on airport management was held in Delhi in first week of July to improve passenger movement at domestic airports;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at and the action taken or contemplated thereon; and

(c) to what extent the management of the airport is expected to be improved thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The main subjects that formed part of the deliberations of the workshop on airport management related to improvement in maintenance, cleanliness, coordination and passenger handling facilities and it was decided that all efforts would be taken to bring about significant improvement, subject to the availability of funds.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Sir, the reply which has been given by the Hon. Minister is very much of a general interest. But I would like to have a specific reply.

What steps the Government has taken to reduce rush at the airports ? How far has the workshop helped in managing the other facilities, like improvement in the food supply, better services, cleanliness, behaviour of the staff and also to improve the present runways, which are very unsafe ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The airports, which are being used by the airlines today, were constructed about 10, 20 to 30 years back. They were meant to cater to the demands of the small aircrafts. We have now introduced Jumbos and bigger aircrafts. And the number of flights have also increased. Because of that, all the airports and aerodromes are crowded. It is necessary to expand the terminal buildings and expand other facilities also to meet the present requirements.

We have prepared a plan. We are trying to implement that plan to see that bigger buildings are available, better runways are available and better facilities are available. It is only two years back, this airports authority came into existence. This airports authority is not supported with the budget from the Government coffers. They are expected to earn and they are expected to use the resources for providing these facilities. But we are conscious of the fact that there are deficiencies at airports. It would be necessary to provide the facilities to maintain the airports in a clean manner, in a better fashion and to provide other facilities also.

As far as supply of food is concerned, now that is the responsibility of the airlines and not the responsibility of the international or national airport authorities. Airlines people do that. We are trying to see that better kind of food is supplied.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : What is the total number of accidents which have occurred during this year? What is the total amount of loss caused to the airlines and the total number of deaths?

I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister the total number of flights which have been cancelled so far and when these are going to be resumed.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, this is a very omnibus question requiring the statistics about different areas. This is a question which was directed to the National Airports Authority. Under the Ministry, we have different authorities/Air India, Indian Airlines, International Airports Authority, National Airports Authority. Then, there are other organisations also. I shall have to collect the information and supply to the Hon. Member which I will do.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : The night landing facilities is the responsibility of the Airport Authority to provide. Some of the major airports where more flights are coming like at Cochin Airport where five flights from Bombay, one flight from Delhi, one from Bangalore and another from Trivandrum are coming, because of the

absence of the night landing facilities, only during the day time they can be landed. In the case of most of the flights which are coming in the evening because of the climatic conditions, people will have to go to some other places, either to Madras, stay there and come on the next day. This is taking place frequently. What does the Ministry propose to do with regard to the night landing facilities for such stations where more flights are coming and more requirement is there and where Indian Airlines get profit? I am specific about the Cochin Airport.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We have some airports where night landing facilities are available and some airports where such facilities are in the process of being established. We do take into consideration the load of traffic, profitability and the number of flights which take off or land at a particular airport and we do try to provide the night landing facilities. Cochin is one of the airports where such facility may be required which we will certainly take into account.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the air service operating between Delhi and Gorakhpur has remained suspended since last several weeks and no arrangements have been made to resume the above service so far?

In this connection, my second question is that in absence of a separate airport in Gorakhpur, people making air-travels are not able to get the full benefit of their air-travel. In view of the above, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that a workshop was organised in Gorakhpur wherein it was proposed that airports should be got constructed at those places where the number of people making air travel is more and air-port facilities should also be provided at these places and there should be regular air-services at these places.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I have already said that aviation activities are increasing very rapidly in our country and demands are being received from various

other places for the provision of air-journey facilities to them. We make all out efforts and we are also making efforts to provide this facility to one and all. Now we have 50 aircrafts with the Air-India and 10 mini aircrafts with the Vayudoot. We are making efforts to provide this facility in the whole of India with the help of these airlines. So far as Gorakhpur is concerned, we will keep it in view and try to provide this facility to that city also as soon as we find it convenient to do so.

[English]

SHRI D. N. REDDY : The Hon. Minister is aware that in the last three months, punctuality of the flights has been the first victim. It has never been so bad as of now. It is reported that it is due to the shortage of aircrafts and often there is failure of the engine, fortunately at the ground level. What has the Hon. Minister to say about this, especially regarding the Hyderabad-Delhi flights where in a few days, there were two or three delays of nearly three to five hours? In the other flights also, things are not better. It is almost a daily phenomenon of one or two hours delay and often we see that there is delay in the flights. Have you got anything to say by giving an assurance that things will become better?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : It has been my endeavour to bring to the notice of the Hon. Members of this House and the people outside that we have very few aircrafts, with us and with those few aircrafts, we have to meet all the demands. I told while replying to the previous question that we have 50 aircrafts. But out of those 50 aircrafts, two aircrafts have met with accidents and I am told only today that one aircraft was hit by a bird and that aircraft has also got affected. So, we have hardly 47 or 48 aircrafts and we are doing with that. When there is delay because of certain reasons at one place, that delay goes on accumulating and at the end of the day, the accumulated delay becomes very very pronounced. I am really sorry that there have been delays but we will try to improve upon this situation by inducting more aircraft. We are trying to purchase more aircraft, acquire more aircraft, get aircraft on lease and try to provide the facilities.

Now, this is the only method which can really be useful for us and we are trying to do that.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Sir, there are a few Avro flights in this country whereby some places have been connected and most of the Avro flights are almost grounded off and on. It happened generally in Belgaon and Bombay. And secondly the runway where the boeing would land is not well-suited. I would like to know whether there is any proposal before the Government to recarpet this runway and replace the old cart like Avros with a flying machine.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Yes, I do realise that this is also a demand in light of the facilities that are there at that place. We will certainly keep that in mind and try to do our best to see that some facility is made available to the people of that area. I have been saying that we do have a plan. We would like to proceed according to the plan. We would like to improve the runway. We would like to induct new aircrafts also and provide the necessary facilities.

Development of monuments in Orissa as tourist spots

*167. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa State has many old monuments and other spots which can attract international tourists but have not yet been developed as tourist spots,

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to locate these spots and, if so, the steps being taken to develop these spots to promote tourism in Orissa State; and

(c) the details of facilities being given to international tourists who come to see India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND
TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.