

operator under the Aircraft Act, 1934 and the rules framed thereunder.

#### **Formation of Air Traffic Board/Air Traffic Authority**

584. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of "open sky policy" of the Government declared in 1991, it is pertinent, to have fair play among public and private airlines, to have an "Air Traffic Boards" or "Air Traffic Authority";

(b) if so, is there any proposal before the Government to constitute this Board/Authority in near future; and

(c) if so, by when such institution will be formed and what will be its term of reference and operation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION. (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is a proposal, though at a nascent stage, to constitute a multi-member Civil Aviation Authority through an Act of Parliament. The matter is under consideration.

#### **Implementation of New Civil Aviation Policy**

585. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the "Civil Aviation Policy" declared last year which envisages that no foreign airlines can have subsidiary in domestic operation;

(b) the number of such proposals pending with Government for clearance after this new policy, who are they; and

(c) the number of proposals cleared and when they are likely to be operational in our country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION. (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Expansion of Trivandrum International Airport**

586. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expansion scheme for Trivandrum International Airport; and

(b) the amount earmarked for the scheme and by what time the expansion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION. (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The expansion scheme for Trivandrum International airport envisages:

— interior modification of existing terminal building and extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 8.97 crores. These projects are likely to be completed by December, 1998.

— construction of a new terminal complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores. Rs. 100 crores has been earmarked in the 9th Five Year Plan for this purpose.

#### **Additional flights of foreign airlines**

587. SHRI BANARSI DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India earns a considerable revenue from tourists and with the collapse of currencies in the Far East, India is facing an increased competition for tourism and investment from these countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether foreign airlines are still interested in monitoring additional flights in India, is now not the most appropriate time for India to leverage the maximum benefits from any negotiations on the various air service agreements for any additional capacity; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There has been some impact on tourism from the Far East due to collapse of their currencies.

(c) and (d) Many foreign airlines are interested in mounting additional flights to India because of the potential market size. Traffic rights to foreign airlines are granted on the basis of reciprocity and balancing of benefits to the designated airlines of both the sides, keeping in view the requirements of tourism, travel and international trade.

#### Performance of Civil Aviation Industry

588. SHRI BANARSI DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Civil Aviation industry is earning a lot of money to the exchequer due to increased flow of traffic to and from India by bringing thousands of tourists and business people but Government have failed miserably to promote this industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost this industry by its overcoming difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Civil Aviation Sector makes a significant contribution to the exchequer by payment of various taxes, duties and earnings from visiting tourists.

(b) Some of the measures taken/being pursued by the Government to further promote this sector are as under:—

(i) Liberalisation of Tourist Charter guidelines.

(ii) Promotion of Regional Airlines.

(iii) Development of Model Airports.

(iv) Liberalised Airport Infrastructure Policy.

(v) Concessional fares by airlines to attract passengers.

(vi) Pricing of Aviation Turbine Fuel at par with international rates.

(vii) Creation of a National Civil Aviation Development Fund; and

(viii) Infrastructure status to Airlines operation and Aircraft acquisition etc.

#### New Aircrafts for IA/AI

589. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to acquire some new aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the number of aircrafts proposed to be purchased for AI and IA;

(c) the details of the proposals pending in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

#### Expansion plan of Delhi Airport

590. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long awaited Rs. 2000 crore airport expansion plan in Delhi is in jeopardy as the Airport Authority have yet to acquire land from villages around the airport;

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay in the acquisition of land; and

(c) whether the Airport Authority had entered into any agreement with the villagers for acquisition of land and if so, the details thereof;