

(c) what has been done so far to start this project and by when it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 65,509 sq. mts. of land at Caran-zalem has been made available by the Goa Government.

(c) Courses have been conducted for important professional training and to set up and run Water Sports Centres on beaches etc. Central Government is providing assistance by way of provision of necessary water sports equipments to State Governments.

Hike in air-fare

1173. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether air-fares have been hiked by the Air India, Indian Airlines and Vayudoot as a result of the recent hike into prices of petrol and petroleum products;

(b) if so, what is the percentage hike in fares of each airlines; and

(c) what relation does the fare-hike bear with the petroleum price rise ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines has increased its domestic rupee fares by 9% effective from 2-10-92 in the form of fuel sur charge. Air India too has made an identical increase in its fares on domestic sectors.

(c) The increase is to offset partially the impact of 15.3% increase in the price of aviation turbine fuel and with drawal of bulk discount on the fuel.

Reintroduction of Air India Flight to Amritsar Airport

1174. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to re-introduce Air India flights to Raja Sansi Airport at Amritsar in view of improved law and order situation in Punjab; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The question of resuming Air India flights to/from Amritsar airport is being examined by the Government in consultation with Air India.

Missile threat to LA. flights to Jammu and Kashmir

1175. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Pioneer' of 18th November, 1992 under the caption "IA Pilots kept in dark about stinger missile threat";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) when the stinger missiles threat to Indian Airlines flights to Jammu & Kashmir came to Government's notice;

(d) whether the Indian Airlines Pilots were informed about it, if not, what were the reasons for not informing them; and

(e) what precautionary steps Government have taken to safeguard the Indian Airlines flights to Jammu & Kashmir ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Since March, 1990 uncorroborated report have been received from time to time about stinger missile threats in J&K. Indian Airlines was apprised of these.

All possible security and counter measures at airports in Jammu & Kasnmir are taken in consultation with the concerned agencies. The implementation of these measures is also monitored and reviewed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security from time to time.

Disposal of grounded Westland Helicopters

1176. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Westland Helicopters grounded in early 1991 have no scrap value and that global tenders to sell these helicopters have been invited;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under the contractual obligation, permission of the manufactures have to be obtained with regard to the utilisation of the sale proceeds; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the response received from the international buyers and the decision, if any, taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No global tender has yet been floated.

(b) No, Sir. However, since the purchase of Westland helicopters was financed through a grant from the Government of United Kingdom, clearance of that Government is required for disposal of these helicopters under the terms of the grant.

(c) Does not arise.

Night landing facility at Agartala Airport

1177. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that night landing facility has not been provided at Agartala airport;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to make this facility available there; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Agartala airport has been provided with night landing facilities. The National Airports Authority has further plans to upgrade the existing facilities by introducing the following :—

(i) The conversion of Medium Intensity Runway Lighting (MIRL) system to High Intensity Runway Lighting (HIRL) system.

(ii) Provision of Abridged Visual Approach Slope Indicator (AVASI) system at both ends of the runway.

Development of Indian Aviation Industry

1178. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited foreign capital and technology for collaborative partnership for an integrated development of India's aviation industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Government's policy in this matter was indicated at the annual assembly of Airports Association Council International (AACI) on 10th of November, 1992 in Madrid (Spain), as follows :

India would welcome mutually beneficial relationships with willing partners for an integrated development of its aviation industry. India's expanding market has the capacity and capability of absorbing transfer of the latest technologies. Setting up of advanced avionics industry would also help India utilise her skilled man power and an economic mode of production based on natural comparative advantage.