

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the estimated cargo (with value) piled up at international airports and since when such cargo is lying there for clearance; and

(c) what is the present rate of clearing cargo and what measures have been taken by Government to provide necessary infrastructure to avoid accumulation of cargo at the international airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The problem of accumulation of cargo including garments during peak season is experienced mainly at I. G. I. Airport, Delhi.

(b) As on 19-3-90, the backlog of cargo at I. G. I. Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay Airports was 2685 tonnes, 147 tonnes, 111. 2 tonnes and 55. 3 tonnes respectively. No statistics is maintained; by International Airports Authority of India about the value of the consignments.

(c) During the first fortnight of March, 1990, the average daily clearance rate of cargo at IGI, Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay Airports was 205 M. T., 60 M. T. 23 M. T., and 130 M. T. respectively. The Government have announced an 'Open Sky Policy' to enable scheduled and non-scheduled operators to lift cargo from India. Air-India has been advised to offer shuttle operations to Middle East by hiring additional capacity, Cargo Tariff rates have also been rationalised to make it economical for air transport operations. The infrastructural facilities for cargo handling have also been adequately improved at the international airports.

Vacant Posts of Doctors

1560. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of vacant posts

of junior doctors in the dispensaries and hospitals run by the Central Government;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to fill up these vacant posts;

« (c) whether it is a fact that shortage of funds is the main impediment against filling up these posts; and

(d) whether Government would take steps to provide health facilities in all villages by setting up medical and health centres in every village and by) appointing qualified doctors there?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTHAY): (a) The number of vacant posts of Junior Doctors in Central Government hospitals in Delhi is 105. Dispensaries have no posts of junior doctors.

(b) and (c) In view of the fact that the *ad-hoc* medical officers appointed during the strike of Junior doctors in May-June, 1989 have been allowed to be continued beyond their normal term of appointment in the light of the judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal, the Government! instructed the hospitals not to fill up the vacant posts of Junior Residents, for the time being to the extent of the availability of surplus *ad hoc* medical officers.. As regards Senior Residents, the hospitals concerned have taken action to fill up the vacant posts.

(d) The responsibility for providing Medical and Health Services in rural areas is that of State Government.

Airport at Vagalkolam in Tamil Nadu

1561. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) what is the stage and status of the proposal to construct an airport in Vagalkulam in Chidambaram district of Tamil Nadu;

(b) what are the impediments in executing this proposal; and

(c) whether the airstrip used during World War II in Kayatar in the same district could be considered as an alternative site for this proposed airport?