

Facilities at Trivandrum airport

1028. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the present facilities at Trivandrum airport are inadequate to meet the passenger requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala have represented in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government would take to improve the present condition of the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) and (b) The existing passenger facilities are inadequate since the peak hour capacity of the International Terminal has exceeded the design capacity of the building.

(c) and (d) The need for further development and expansion of the Trivandrum International Airport has been brought out by various State functionaries in different forums.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up construction of a state-of-the-art world class International Terminal Building complex for handling 1600 peak hour passengers (800 Arriving & 800 Departing) at Chakai side which would be operational by 30th September, 2009.

Losses to Air India

1029. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is losing Rs. 14-15 crore a day;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 30,000 crore loss a year is staring at Air India;

(c) if so, whether inspite of the fact that airlines raised fares, load factors have declined;

(d) whether his Ministry has urged Government that Civil Aviation is facing financial crunch has asked Finance Ministry to provide assistance to the sector and whether Minister had also discussed with Prime Minister and Finance Minister to bail out Civil Aviation; and

(e) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL):

(a) and (b) Air India is estimated to make a loss of around Rs.5,000 crores in the year 2008-09.