

(b) whether it is also a fact that some latest machines are lying idle in Calcutta Mint; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the workers are against installing modern machines to Mint small coins?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) The three Mints at Calcutta, Bombay and Hyderabad have been in existence for a long time. It is true that some of the machinery in the three Mints are old and require replacement. Higher productivity is possible with modern machinery. Steps have been taken already to install modern equipment in a phased manner.

There are no reports of latest machines lying idle in Calcutta Mint.

By and large the industrial situation in the Mints is cordial and there is no resistance of the part of the workers to install modern machines for minting small coins.

Agreement with USSR for the supply of sophisticated defence equipment

2136. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI T. THANGABALU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into any agreement with U.S.S.R. for the supply of sophisticated defence equipment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) As part of the continuing programme of modernisation of our Armed Forces, agreements for import of various sophisticated weapons and equipments are concluded between India and USSR from time to time. Further disclosure regarding details of the agreements signed will not be in the public interest.

Construction of Calicut Airport

2137. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Calicut Airport is progressing according to the project report;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what amount has been spent in this project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) The time schedule envisaged completion of the project in four years from the date of commencement. The project is to be implemented in two phases comprising levelling and grading of the site in the first phase and construction of runway, pavements, terminal building, etc. in the second phase. Work on the first phase was awarded on 15.3.1984, and the progress has so far been more or less on schedule.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 170.69 lakhs has been incurred till March, 1984.

Volume of air traffic between Imphal and Silchar and between Imphal and Gauhati

2138. SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH:

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:

SHRI HUSEN DALWAI:

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

(a) what is the volume of air traffic between Imphal and Silchar, and Imphal and Gauhati during the last three years, year-wise and month-wise; and

(b) what steps Government contemplate to ease the heavy air traffic between Imphal and Silchar and Imphal and Gauhati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) The requisite information is incorporated in the attached statement.

(b) The capacity provided by the daily B-737 service between Imphal and Silchar and Imphal and Gauhati is considered adequate to meet the existing traffic demand.

Statement

No. of passengers carried per month

Month	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
1	2	3	4
<i>Imphal-Silchar</i>			
Apr.	1014	975	1830
May	1026	1098	1920
June	954	1491	1588
July	1060	1409	1680
Aug.	1034	1411	1568
Sep.	1016	1276	1560
Oct.	1060	1459	1578
Nov.	1019	1365	1514
Dec.	1066	1405	1650
Jan.	1051	1486	1729
Feb.	956	1644	1764
March	1017	1761	1951
TOTAL :	12273	16870	20332
<i>Silchar-Imphal</i>			
Apr.	971	988	1370
May	1041	1116	1574
June	978	1320	1374
July	992	1251	1355
Aug.	1067	1294	1362
Sep.	1011	1095	1662
Oct.	1096	1308	1778
Nov.	1016	1294	1658
Dec.	1059	1439	1925
Jan.	1042	1468	2081
Feb.	969	1336	2046
March	1099	1633	2159
TOTAL :	12341	15542	18744

1	2	3	4
<i>Imphal-Gauhati</i>			
Apr.	2003	1952	1910
May	2114	2084	2124
June	2207	2466	2380
July	2548	9350	24 16
Aug.	2264	1851	1879
Sep.	2296	1733	1623
Oct.	2136	2002	2192
Nov.	2052	1980	2042
Dec.	1980	2320	2175
Jan.	2034	1774	2246
Feb.	2041	1140	2157
Mar.	1983	1689	1966
TOTAL :	25658	23341	25150
<i>Gauhati-Imphal</i>			
Apr.	1652	1623	1757
May	1868	1993	2105
June	1830	2065	2277
July	2196	1987	2065
Aug.	1821	1681	1730
Sep.	1985	1711	1711
Oct.	1950	1806	2197
Nov.	1663	2107	1969
Dec.	2146	2262	2531
Jan.	1412	1612	1326
Feb.	1552	934	2143
Mar.	1805	1845	2123
TOTAL :	21880	21636	24584