

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Oman and Government of Qatar had requested for permission for their designated air carrier (Gulf Air) to operate air services between Gulf points and Trivandrum. This was not agreed to since Gulf Air is not entitled to operate air services to/from Trivandrum under the existing arrangements.

Problems faced by air passengers from Gulf countries

930. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any representation from the Government of Kerala regarding the problems being faced by the Indian air passengers from Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter dated May 3, 1984 was received by the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation from the Chief Minister, Kerala forwarding for favourable consideration of the Government, a copy of the resolution adopted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on 23-3-1984, which urged, *inter-alia*, a reduction in the fare charges of Air India between Trivandrum and Gulf countries.

(b) The matter was examined very carefully and a reply has since been sent to the Chief Minister, Kerala indicating that the fares applicable on the India-Gulf sector have been fixed multilaterally at the International Air Transport Association forum and ratified by the concerned Governments and are considered reasonable and

that it was not open to Air India to charge lower fares unilaterally.

Increase in passenger traffic handled at the international and domestic airports

931. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the passenger traffic handled at all the international and domestic airports in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the facilities at present available at the two Airports in Bombay are sufficient to handle the present traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of passengers handled at international and domestic airports during the preceding three years is indicated below:

<i>Number of Passengers handled in lakhs</i>		
Year	International airports	Domestic airports
1981	104.26	41.58
1982	118.21	48.01
1983	130.97	49.50

(c) The present national terminal has capacity to handle 2000 departing and 2000 arriving passengers per hour which is sufficient to meet the present requirement. At the international terminal, congestion is sometimes created due to bunching of flights. Phase II of this terminal, which is now under construction, will double the existing capacity and meet the requirements for another 4-5 years.