

Development of airstrips

439. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop Hubli, Davangere and Bellary airstrips; and

(b) whether work has started on these projects; if not by when the work is likely to be taken in hand?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) The project for construction of an aerodrome at Hubli had been sanctioned and some preliminary works like collection of materials, casting of RCC pipes were started. However, due to tight budgetary position the various schemes of the Civil Aviation Department had to be reviewed keeping in view Indian Airlines's future plans. Construction of an aerodrome at Hubli had, therefore, been postponed. It is proposed to review the proposal again subject to availability of resources.

There is no proposal to construct an aerodrome either at Davangere or Bellary.

S.B.I. scheme to help needy students

440. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN: SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has undertaken a massive scheme to finance needy students in select undergraduate and post-graduate courses in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether this scheme is proposed to be introduced in other States also; and

(c) if so, by when the scheme is likely to be so extended?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHEJEE): (a) to (c) In June, 1976 State Bank of India introduced an Educational Loan Scheme in order to finance indigent students of merit going in for Graduate and Post-Graduate studies in selected disciplines in India and abroad. The Scheme has been implemented not only in Tamil Nadu but also in other States.

Expansion programme of ITDC

441. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation is planning a major expansion of its activities in preparation for the conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The following projects are being taken up by India Tourism Development Corporation in preparation for the Conference of Pacific Area Travel Association:

Name of Project	Estimated expenditure during 1976-77 and 1977-78
1. Expansion of Qutab Hotel, New Delhi by adding 50 rooms	Rs. 48 lakhs
2. Renovation of Lodhi and Ranjit Hotels in New Delhi.	Rs. 66 lakhs
3. Renovation of Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi	Rs. 108 lakhs

The Corporation is also planning to augment its transport fleet and expects to acquire a number of tourist cars and coaches in time for the Pacific Area Travel Association Conference.