

Meeting of the panel on tropical cyclones at Madras

*308. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the third session of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea was held in Madras recently;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries which attended the meeting;

(c) what are the details of the discussions held in the meeting and recommendations made thereat; and

(d) what action Government propose to take on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka and Thailand besides India.

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Session carried out a review of the coordinated technical plan and considered work programme for 1976—78 which covered various subject like meteorological component, hydrological component, community preparedness and disaster prevention etc. Work programme was drawn up for the member-countries which *inter-alia* included the following :

(1) Establishment of a radiowave observatory at Car Nicobar.

(2) Establishment of a ground station with facilities for reception of data from polar orbiting satellites carrying scanning radiometers.

(3) Establishment of simple automatic weather stations on islands and reefs in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

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(4) Use of drifting and anchored buoys in the cyclone areas of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

(5) Expansion of number of recording rain-gauge stations and radio reporting stations and improvement of communication facilities in general.

The countries concerned will be taking appropriate action on the recommendations concerning them. So far as Government of India are concerned, India Meteorological Department are taking necessary action.

Offer of air routes to private operators

*309. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA :

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1976, and state the reasons for which the nine routes mentioned therein, are being offered to private operators and are not being operated by I.A.C. itself?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Need has been felt to air link some of the places not served by Indian Airlines. These nine routes have therefore been thrown open to private operators. The I.A.C. has not found itself to be in a position to serve these routes because of its tight fleet position and other economic factors.

Jabalpur aerodrome

*310 SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA :

SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI :

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

(a) whether Government have received a number of representations regarding