in refunding the amount of damaged notes received from commercial banks during the last three years; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to avoid delays?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA
ROHATGI) : (a) Claims for payment of exchange
value of damaged and mutilated notes are
adjudicated by the Currency Officers of the Reserve
Bank of India in accordance with the procedure laid
down under Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund)
Rules, 1935. Slightly mutilated notes which are
identifiable as genuine notes are also exchanged at
the Branches of the State Bank of India and its
subsidiaries and treasuries having currency chests in
accordance with the procedure laid down in Note 1
to Rule 83 of

Executive Instructions, Part XIV, of the
Central Treasury Rules., Vol. I.

(b) The information is being collected from
the various branches of the Reserve Bank of India
and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as
received.

(c) The state of work in the claims branches
of the Reserve Bank of India is constantly reviewed
and appropriate steps, including sanction of
additional staff, where necessary, are taken to speed
up the disposals.]

CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT NEAR COCHIN

*43. SHRI S. KUMARAN :
SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN :
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala have
requested the Central Government to construct a
new major airport near Cochin in place of the
present airport in Wellington Island which cannot
be developed as a major aerodrome; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken
thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL
AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) A survey is being undertaken to assess the
suitability of the site for possible development of an
aerodrome at Edakka-ttuvalay.

PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO SUPERVISORY
STAFF OF STATE BANK

*44. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of
State Bank of India pay 'closing allowance' only to
the high-salaried supervising staff while the bulk of
closing work is performed by the employees
belonging to clerical, cash department and
subordinate staff;

(b) whether it is also a fact that overtime
allowance is paid to the supervisory staff of the
Bank;

(c) whether it is also a fact that conveyance
allowance is paid only to some high-salaried
supervisory staff; and

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and