

and international, the following major projects have been undertaken:

(a) New International Passenger Terminal Complex at Bombay Airport (Phase II) at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.49 crores. This project is scheduled for completion by March 1985.

(b) New International Passenger & Cargo Terminal Complex at Delhi Airport (Phase I) at an estimated cost of Rs. 63.95 crores. This project is likely to be completed during the year 1984-85.

(c) New National Terminal Complex at Madras Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.04 crores. This project is likely to be completed during the year 1984-85.

Apart from the major projects mentioned above, during the Sixth Plan IAAI is implementing a number of schemes to improve service facilities, the cargo warehousing facilities are being augmented and the operational facilities at the four international airports are being streamlined and improved.

Balance of Payment

4569. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the heavy and costly imports and recessionary trends in the import market, the balance of payment position is seriously strained;

(b) if so, what is the present balance of payment position; and

(c) what steps are taken to improve the balance of payment situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India's external trade and payments situation is severely strained because the economy has experienced a number of exogenous shocks. There has been a sharp rise in the prices of

essential imports, especially of POL which occurred in 1979 and 1980, while the prices of some major items of India's export interest have declined significantly. The growth in India's exports has also been constrained by the continuing recession and intensification of protectionist measures in the developed countries.

(b) The balance of payments position in 1982-83 has shown some improvement over the previous year; but nevertheless the position continues to be a cause for concern in view of the large external trade deficit and its implications for the current account position of balance of payments.

(c) The Government have taken a number of measures which aim at reduction in imports, especially, of bulk items, through increased domestic production and these have had an effect in 1982-83. Efforts are also being made to improve export performance and to increase the flow of remittances from abroad. Necessary steps are being taken to prevent any undue decline in reserves by meeting the essential financing requirements of the economy from multilateral and commercial sources consistent with observing prudent limits on debt servicing.

Accommodation/Boarding facilities at Bodh-Gaya Pilgrim Centre

4570. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bodh-gaya is a major attraction for Buddhist pilgrims and tourists from all over South East Asia and particularly Japan and Thailand but the place lacks adequate accommodation and boarding facilities; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department, in consultation with the State Govt., has prepared a Master Plan for Bodh Gaya for the provision of various facilities. In addition, a special train called "The Great Indian Rover" is shortly being introduced for the convenience of tourists visiting places of Buddhist interest in Bihar including Bodh Gaya. This train with accommodation for 126 tourists will be like a hotel on wheels catering to various places of Buddhist interest.

Steps proposed for reducing congestion at Delhi and Bombay Airports

4571. **SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the congestion at the Airports, specially at Delhi and Bombay Airports; and

(b) the steps proposed to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes Sir. Due to night landing and take off restrictions imposed on airlines in Europe and Far East and the geographical location of India the international flights have perforce to pass through India during the early hours of the morning resulting in congestion at Delhi and Bombay Airports.

(b) At Bombay Phase II of Terminal II with an annual capacity of 2.5 million passengers is being constructed and is likely to be completed by 1985. At Delhi a new international terminal with a capacity of 3.5 million passengers per annum is being built and is expected to be ready for use by the end of 1985.

Relaxation of restrictions by France for imports from India

4572. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has decided to relax restrictions on the import of certain Indian articles;

(b) if so, whether India has prepared a list of such commodities that find difficulties in entering into the French markets;

(c) whether the list was prepared at the instance of the French Government following the recent visit of French President; and

(d) what assistance from France, India is likely to receive and what are the fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):

(a) to (d) Government have no knowledge regarding relaxation of restrictions on import from India of certain items by France. However, the question of India's adverse balance of trade has been taken up with France at the time of the last meeting of Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic & Technical Cooperation which held its sessions in Delhi during October, 1982 and again during the visit of President Mitterand of France to New Delhi in November 82. The French authorities were requested to send a Purchase mission to India to identify different sectors in which France could look to India as a source of supply. A 12 member delegation of senior officials of major French Companies visited New Delhi and Bombay in January, 1983 and held discussions with Indian counterparts. They also visited the Indian Engineering Trade Fair. The report of the Mission is awaited. It is hoped that as a result of the visit of this team, further sectoral visits from France will take place to locate partners in India for supply of goods needed for the French market.