

Chairman, Sir, in 1980 during the tenure of the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Civil Aviation Minister had given an assurance to link Purnea with the third Air Service *viz.* "Vayudoot" and an announcement to that effect had been made by the Government. But that work has not been completed so far. Purnea is a border area and the Nepal-bound passengers go through Purnea. Purnea has local importance as well. I, therefore, urge upon the Civil Aviation Minister to make the Vayudoot Service available to Purnea and if it is not possible, the flights of Indian Airlines from Delhi to Assam or Calcutta should be provided with stoppage at Purnea on a trial basis initially so that the Purnea district could be developed economically and socially. Government had undertaken construction of an Airport at huge cost in this Northern belt of the country in 1962 after the Indo-China war from the security point of view. But that airport has not been completed so far and it is not being put to use. If it is put to commercial use, its importance would greatly increase from the social as well as the security point of view.

[English]

- (iv) Increasing volume of traffic from Kerala to Gulf countries and need to declare Trivandrum as an International Airport and to complete the work on Calicut and Cochin Airports

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : There is an ever increasing volume of traffic from Kerala to different countries particularly the Gulf countries and *vice versa*. But the facilities available in Kerala at present to meet the requirements of this growing traffic are very inadequate. A demand has been made for quite some time that the Trivandrum airport should be declared as an international airport. The reason behind this demand was that only if it is declared so, the facilities which are required in an airport like this would be provided. But the Government has not conceded this demand. The runway needs expansion to take in larger aircraft and other related facilities are required there to handle the growing volume of traffic.

Then, the work on Calicut airport has been delayed for long. This airport should have been ready at least a few years back. Similarly, the Cochin airport is in such a

condition that it cannot be developed due to lack of space etc. Of course, the Government has promised another airport, but if the delay that is occurring in the completion of the Calicut airport is an indication, then the promised airport at Cochin may not be ready for a very long time.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take the following steps immediately:

1. Declare Trivandrum as an international airport and undertake its development.
2. Complete the work on the Calicut airport within the stipulated time.
3. Provide adequate funds immediately to start the work on the Cochin airport so as to complete it within a shorter time frame.

[Translation]

- (v) Need to take out a tributary from Sone Irrigation Canal from Ghana to Pareb in Patna District

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, irrigation facilities for 30 to 40 villages falling between Patna Protection Embankment and Sone river under Vikrma Police Station of Patna District are not available. If a tributary is taken out from the Sone Irrigation Canal from Ghana to Pareb, people would be benefited thereby. The Central Government should get this scheme cleared from the Planning Commission without delay and instruct the Government of Bihar to implement the same. This would bring prosperity to the poor people of that area.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1985-86

Ministry of Defence—contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up further discussion on the demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : At the outset let me pay on behalf of my party our sincere tribute to the Indian Armed Forces consisting of three wings, for its excellent record or service to the nation. Let me also pay our regard and appreciation for the Army for its strict observance of aloofness from political influences and its absolute