

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATIONS AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Most of the Vayudoot stations have inadequate infrastructure for operating A-320 aircraft.

[English]

Setting up of Office of Rubber Board

1625. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up an office of the Rubber Board at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the location identified therefor; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government has no proposal to open Office of the Rubber Board at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.

(b) *Does not arise.*

(c) *The Rubber Board has already opened a Field Office at Siliguri for promotion of Ruber cultivation in the northern districts of West Bengal, parts of which are identified as suitable for growing rubber. The rubber plantation development in*

these areas is in its beginning stage. Only a few planters have come forward to grow rubber. The work to be attended is mostly of promotional nature. Opening of another office at Jalpaiguri is, therefore, not considered necessary at this stage.

World Bank Assistance for Upgradation of Hospitals in Karnataka

1626. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the project for upgradation and improvement of secondary level hospitals in Karnataka with the World Bank assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No proposal for upgradation and improvement of secondary level hospitals in Karnataka has been posed for assistance from the World Bank. Such a project has however been posed for German assistance and discussions are being held by the State Government with German authorities.

(b) Details regarding the size of the project, quantum and timing of assistance will be known only after the project is finalised.

Development of Tourism

1627. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: