

Taking over of Surat Airport by National Airport Authority

895. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat regarding taking over of Surat airport by National Airports Authority; and

(b) if so, the action taken on this proposal and by when the Surat Airport is likely to be taken over by National Airports Authority?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to financial constraints and other commitments, the Airports Authority of India is not in a position, at present, to take over Surat Airport.

[English]

Committees Under Tobacco Boards

896. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board is empowered to form various committees to cater to its different interests;

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand the role of the Tobacco Board through such committees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Board is empowered to appoint such committees as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties and performance of its functions under Section 7 of the Tobacco Board Act.

(b) and (c) . No, Sir.

SSI Sector and Banks

897. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the series of differences that have cropped up between the small scale industrial sector and the banks over the disbursement of loans;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received complaints from the small scale units that the directions of the Reserve Bank of India with regard to the viability of the units are not being followed by the banks and sometimes healthy units are denied loans by the banks; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to remove the grievances of the small scales industrial units in respect of disbursement of loans by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some sick small scale industrial SSI units have complained that one of the reasons for their units becoming sick is that the banks do not disburse adequate/timely credit to them. However, on inquiry by RBI with the concerned banks, banks have informed that they have been disbursing adequate/timely credit to these units and wherever less credit was disbursed, it was due to the fact that banks were not satisfied with the performance of the units.

RBI has further reported that internal grievance machineries are in position in banks and chief executives of banks meet complainants periodically to hear/look into their grievances. Complaints from SSI units, as and when received by RBI, are taken up with banks and the parties are advised suitably wherever considered necessary.

Medical Facilities to the Unorganised Sector

898. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any medical facility to the workers of unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) . There are 154 dispensaries including one Chest Clinic and 3