

**Export of Coir and Coir products
from Kerala**

1681. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coir and the coir products exported from Kerala during the year 1976-77; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) 43,910 tonnes.

(b) Rs. 22.57 crores.

Aerodrome at Hubli

1682. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of aerodrome at Hubli has been stopped and the amount already spent thereon;

(b) whether the area has been made available free of cost to Government by the Municipal Corporation of Hubli-Dharwar;

(c) whether all the construction equipment and staff have been removed from Hubli and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation has come forward to give a loan (free of interest) of Rs. 25 lakhs to Government to continue the construction and if so, the difficulties that are there to accept the loan and continue the construction; and

(e) when the construction is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). Construction work at Hubli aerodrome has been stopped. Information regarding amount of expenditure already incurred on the project and the actual area of land handed over by the Municipal Corporation of Hubli-Dharwar to the Civil Aviation Department is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Central Public Works Department have withdrawn their staff except watch and ward from the project site as the construction work has been stopped. Some 6" diameter RCC pipes were taken from the site to Dabolim (Goa) where they were urgently required. These can be replenished if and when required again. All the other materials collected at Hubli airport are being retained at the site.

(d) and (e). Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation offered a loan of Rs. 15 lakhs for construction of an aerodrome at Hubli. The State Government also intimated that if desired a further sum of Rs. 10 lakhs as loan to be raised from the Hubli-Dharwar Municipal Corporation or from the public would be made available. However, additional funds will be necessary to complete the project and funds will also have to be provided for repayment of the loan if accepted. Due to constraint on resources the various schemes of the Civil Aviation Department had to be reviewed keeping priorities and Indian Airlines future plans in views. Construction of an aerodrome at Hubli had, therefore, to be deferred. It will not be possible to say at this stage when the construction work will be taken up again.