

curement of material, technological collaboration etc. There is no proposal for amalgamating these offices with a view to improving the image of India in foreign countries.

(b) Does not arise.

Programme for Effective Control of Price Index

1931. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the tremendous rise in prices of daily use commodities such as wheat, rice, edible oils, soaps, cycle tyres, pulses, spices etc., Government have drawn any programme for effective control of price index by forming super markets at various places and thereby supplying goods at competitive prices;

(b) whether facility will extend to the rural people; and

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for completion of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL):

(a) The programme formulated by the Government visualises expansion of the network of consumer cooperatives in the urban areas, for ensuring equitable distribution of essential consumer goods at fair prices and thus help in measures of price stabilisation. Consumer cooperatives operate through the network of retail branches of varying sizes according to the actual needs of the consumers in the towns and cities in which they operate. Co-operative Department Stores which are popularly known as Super Markets. Super Bazars, Janata Bazars, Apna Bazars etc. are large branches set up by Consumer Cooperatives in big cities and towns and generally deal in all the basic essential commodities under one roof, adopting modern retailing practices such as cleaning, pre-pack-

ing etc. There is a plan programme of covering all important cities and towns by cooperative department stores to be set up by consumer cooperative institutions.

(b) In so far as rural areas are concerned, there is no programme of establishing cooperative department stores in view of small population and the low per-capita income which would make the units un-economic. However, in Mandi-towns or taluka level towns, wherever considered necessary and found economically viable on the basis of project formulation, department stores can be set up for the benefit of rural population as well. In the rural areas, besides fair price shops, agricultural/service cooperatives and marketing cooperatives are expected to open branches for undertaking effective distribution of consumer articles in the rural population.

(c) The targets and the programme to be undertaken are to be fixed by the concerned State Governments in the light of the conditions obtaining in the respective States.

Failure to persuade Foreign Airlines Touch Down at Calcutta Airport

1932. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the development of Tourism in West Bengal suffered badly mainly due to the failure of the Central Government to persuade larger number of foreign Airlines to touch down at Calcutta Airport;

(b) whether Government are persuading foreign Airlines to touch down at Calcutta;

(c) if so, the latest development; and