

project despite acquisition and availability of land, construction of approach roads, and Kerala Government's expenditure of about Rs. 15 lakhs, what steps are being taken for expeditious execution and completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) and (b). The revised estimate of Rs. 2.5 crores has just been prepared for construction of an airport at Karipur near Calicut for operations with HS-748 aircraft. The revised estimate will now be processed for sanction. It is likely to take about 4 years to complete the work from the date of commencement.

Severe earthquake threat to Nagaland

629. SHRI CHINGWANG KON-YAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nagaland falls under the active earthquake belt and a severe tremor is likely to occur there in the near future; and

(b) if so, what precautionary and remedial measures Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) & (b). The whole of North Eastern India including Nagaland is in seismic belt and earthquakes in that area cannot be ruled out. In the present state of knowledge, the prediction of earthquakes is not yet a proven technique. It is therefore, not possible to say when an earthquake occurs in that region. As a long term measure designs for earthquake resistant structures have been standardised. Other general measures like educating the public would have to be taken by the local Government.

Import of Edible Oil

630. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of edible oil imported into India in the last two years; and

(b) the approximate cost of oil imported and the profit or loss incurred in the deal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) & (b). The quantity and value of edible oils imported during 1977-78 and 1978-79 are as under:—

| Quantity in Lakh Tonnes | | Value in Rs. crores | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| 1977-78 | | 1978-79 | |
| Qty. | Value | Qty. | Value |
| 12'84 | 709'69 | 10'40 | 535'41 |

The above imports had been made both by the STC and the private trade.

The edible oils imported by STC were sold to the various consumers generally at break-even cost.

Government is, however, not aware of the profit or loss incurred by private trade.

Rise in Price of Steel

631. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) has it come to the notice of Government that the cost of steel has in recent months gone up abnormally high;

(b) has this steep rise affected the industry and building construction works; and