

is permitted. Limited import on merits for processing and re-export subject to such conditions as may be stipulated in each case is also being allowed to augment the supply of imported raw cashew.

**Central Assistance for Dearness Allowance to State Government Employees in Tripura**

667. SHRI BAJU BANRIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has approached the Central Government for money to sanction the central rates of dearness allowance to the State Government employees in Tripura:

(b) are Government aware of the fact that the State Government has no financial resources to sanction the Central rates of dearness allowance to the State employees; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to come forward to remove the disparity in dearness allowance between the Central Government employees and State Government employees and sanction more money to Tripura Government for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The Government of Tripura requested the Government of India in March, 1979 for financial assistance for paying dearness allowance to its employees at the rates applicable to the employees of the Central Government.

(b) and (c). The Central Government is aware of the constraint on the resources of the Government of Tripura. The policy of the Central Government, however, has consistently been that it is for the State Governments themselves to take a decision on dearness allowance payable to their employees having due regard to their resources position, the requirements

for developmental outlays and other relevant factors. No Central assistance is given to State Governments for this purpose. The matter was also examined by the 7th Finance Commission. The Commission has observed that it cannot suggest as an absolute principle, that there should be parity between the emoluments paid to the State and the Central employees. It has further observed that the obvious reason is that the States, as autonomous bodies, have to determine matters relating to emoluments of their employees in accordance with the circumstances prevailing in each State, e.g. its financial position, costs of living and the comparative position of employees in the neighbouring States as also the resource situation, demands on the resources for the development plans and the needs of maintaining harmonious relations with the employees. The policy of the Government of India conforms to the observations of the 7th Finance Commission.

**Upgradation of Amritsar, Patna and Trivandrum Airports**

668. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to upgrade the airports at Amritsar, Patna and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). While some requests from the State Governments as well as private organisations have been received for upgradation of Amritsar and Trivandrum airports for international flights, no such request in respect of Patna has been received.

At present, some international flights are operated from Trivandrum and