

of viability after implementation of the modernisation scheme within a short period. Priority is given in sanctioning assistance to sick units namely those whose paid-up capital and reserves have been eroded to the extent of 50 per cent or more. The proportion of assistance given on soft terms depends on the extent of the weakness of the concerned unit. At present, IDBI, IFCI and ICICI grant advances under the scheme.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Proposal to strengthen consumer Cooperative Movement**

1499. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to strengthen the consumer cooperative movement in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has been operating centrally sponsored schemes for development and strengthening of consumers cooperative movement from 1971-72 under which financial assistance is made available to State Governments for:—

(i) setting up stores of various types;

(ii) setting up of consumer industries,

(iii) establishment of common kitchen centres for students,

(iv) rehabilitation of weak wholesale/central consumers cooperative stores, and

(v) strengthening of State Level Consumers and Marketing cum-

#### **Consumer Cooperative Federations.**

2. The Central Government is also operating central sector schemes for assisting the National Cooperative Consumer Federation and the Super Bazar, New Delhi, as well as for distribution of consumer articles in rural areas.

#### **Permission to State Governments to operate scheduled Air Services not covered by I.A.**

1500. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several State Governments have sought permission to operate scheduled air-services on routes not covered by Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon; and

(c) what are the names of the States which have sought the permission to operate the air services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c). Some State Governments, such as Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have applied for operating scheduled services to link cities within their States, presently not covered by the network of Indian Airlines. Operation of such services require a smaller type of aircraft with 16 to 20 seats. The general question of operation of feeder services, the type of aircraft to be used, the agency that should be entrusted with operation of such services, etc., are under consideration of Government. The requests received from the State Governments will be dealt with after a policy decision is taken by Government.