

shortage in the availability of EC grade aluminium while for CG grade aluminium there appears to be some shortfall in the availability vis-a-vis demand.

(b) In order to fill the gap between the demand and production of aluminium, the M.M.T.C., the canalising agency, was authorised to import 30,000 tonnes of aluminium during 1983-84.

(c) There was no delay on the part of MMTC in arranging imports. Immediately on receiving the necessary clearances/sanctions M.M.T.C. took steps to organise the imports. The normal lead time between the date of authorisation to MMTC and the actual arrival of material at Indian ports is about 3-3½ months. The material against the orders placed by MMTC has been arriving within the stated time age and is under distribution to the actual users.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Airport at Hubli (Karnataka)

2140. SHRI F.H. MOHSIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted Hubli airport proposal;

(b) whether an official team has since been sent to Karnataka to prepare the estimates for the construction of the airport; and

(c) if so, how long will it take to build this airport and which of the Indian Airlines services will touch this airport ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) On the recommendation of the Indian Airlines, the construction of an airfield at Hubli for possible operation of HS-748 aircraft was sanctioned in 1974. Subsequently due to a very substantial increase in the fuel prices, which would have made

the operations non-viable, Indian Airlines decided not to extend their service to Hubli. The project, therefore, was dropped. It is not included in the 6th Five-Year Plan. The Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of Karnataka in a meeting with the Union Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation on 21.12.83, indicated that the State government through their Public Works Department would be willing to undertake the development of the airport, as soon as technical parameters and necessary estimates are drawn up. The Union Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation agreed to send a team of officers to inspect the site and prepare necessary plans.

(b) The team will be visiting Hubli in the course of this month to carry out the survey of the site and to prepare estimates.

(c) The construction of an airport, after its financial sanction and completion of codal formalities, would take approximately 12-18 months. It will be possible to airlink Hubli with a Vayudoot service subject to availability of the requisite infrastructural facilities, light transport aircraft and viability of operations.

Development of Places of Tourism in Bihar

2141. SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the places being developed for tourism in Bihar and particularly in North Bihar;

(b) whether it is being impressed upon the Government of Bihar or by the Government's efforts to resume further excavation of the ancient historical site at Balirajgarh and complete the slightly incomplete Dak Bunglow there;

(c) whether the ancient historical sites of Punyaranya (Sitamarhi) Ahilyasthan, Kalyaneshwar, Aseragarh are to be excavated and developed as tourist centres;

(d) if so, details thereabout; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?