

(ii) The production of cashew nuts in the State is proposed to be stepped up by undertaking various developmental measures.

(iii) Multiplication of high yielding hybrid variety of pepper on an area of four hectares in the State is proposed during the Fifth Plan.

(iv) It is proposed to raise planting material for production of cloves with facilities available at the Central Nursery and to distribute the seedling so raised at a subsidised price in the Fifth Plan. The State Government has been requested to formulate a scheme for the development of clove with financial assistance from the Agricultural Refinance Corporation.

Increase in prices of controlled cloth

1878. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow 25 per cent increase in the prices of controlled cloth; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) and (b). In view of the increase in the cost of production of controlled cloth since its last revision in May, 1968, the question of revision of the prices is under consideration.

Trade talks with Enlarged E.E.C.

1879. DR. H. P. SHARMA:
SHRI MUHAMMED
SHERIEF:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have lately taken place with enlarged E.E.C.;

(b) what demands were made by the Indian side during these talks; and

(c) the precise outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important matters taken up from the Indian side were:—

(i) Improved access for our Jute and Coir products including retention of present duty free regime in UK for these products;

(ii) Early conclusion of Commercial Cooperation Agreement (CCA);

(iii) Safeguard arrangements for India's exports in the context of British entry into E.E.C.; and

(iv) Improvement in the Generalised Scheme of Preferences of the Community.

(c) The agreements on Jute and Coir have now been reached in principle. The issue relating to the continuation of duty free entry after the 1st January, 1974 for these two products in UK is still being considered.

Some improvements are also likely to be made in the Community's Generalised Scheme of Preferences for 1974.

Negotiations on C.C.A. are still continuing.

Cases of Evasion or Non-Payment of Taxes against Share Holders of Maruti Limited

1880. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1922 on the 3rd August, 1973 and state:

(a) whether the information relating to evasion or non-payment of Corporation Tax, Personal Income-tax,

Wealth-tax and Excise Duty by major shareholders and Directors of Maruti Ltd. has since been collected; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). Three companies holding shares of Rs. 10,000 or more in M/s. Maruti Ltd., are in arrears of Central Excise Duty and other dues. These are pending because of disputes of classification or assessable value or on account of appeals or revision petitions having been preferred by the parties.

Information in respect of direct taxes is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Transportation and Communication Difficulties Experienced by the States and Union Territories in North Eastern India

1881. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation about the difficulties with regard to transportation and communication experienced by the State and Union territories in the North Eastern India;

(b) whether there are no adequate lounges and other facilities at Imphal and other stations;

(c) whether there are not sufficient navigational aids at the Imphal airport which enable I.A.C. aircraft to land in cloudy and stormy weather;

(d) whether the runways at Imphal, Silchar and Agartala are not long and strong enough for Boeing-737 and Caravelle aircraft to make a landing and to take off; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the air services in this strategically vital area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to the tight fleet position of Indian Airlines it is not possible to improve the air transport system in the Eastern Region in the immediate future. The requirements of this region will be kept in mind when the Indian Airlines fleet position improves.

(b) to (d). Passenger facilities are not adequate at Tulihal (Imphal) aerodrome and a new terminal building will be taken up for construction in the next financial year. Other essential facilities including navigational aids are available at most of the civil aerodromes to meet existing requirements. However, the improvement of airfields is a constant process and these are introduced whenever necessary consistent with operational needs and availability of resources. The runway at Tulihal (Imphal) aerodrome is suitable for Caravelles and Boeing 737s but those at Silchar and Agartala are at present not suitable for these aircraft.

(e) Facilities at Guwahati have been improved. The aerodrome at Mohanbari is being developed for Boeing 737 operations. A new aerodrome is under construction at Barapani (Shillong).

Extension and strengthening of the runway at Agartala aerodrome to make it suitable for Boeing 737 operations is under consideration.

It is proposed to develop proper civil enclaves at Jorhat, Tezpur and Dimapur (Manipur Road) while provision is being made in the Fifth Plan for the development of aerodromes at Kamalpur and Kailashahar.

Extension of Insurance Cover for Fixed Deposits

1883. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rejected a suggestion to extend insurance