

Boosting of exports

747. **SHRI BIREN ENGTI:**
SHRI B. K. DAS-
CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met Ministers of Industries of the States in a conference recently;

(b) whether any concrete ideas for boosting export with the active participation of the States emerged; and

(c) whether the State Government of Meghalaya has ever submitted to him any concrete scheme for exporting coal, limestone, tezpatta, betel leaves, potatoes and fresh fruits to Bangladesh where they find their natural outlet on a Government-to-Government basis under the terms of the Indo-Bangladesh Trade Agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the discussions were aimed at ensuring greater participation of State Governments in our export efforts.

(c) Exports of fruits and vegetables including potatoes ginger and oranges as also betel nuts and betel leaves have been included in the Balanced Trade and Payments Arrangement between India and Bangladesh at the instance of the State Government of Meghalaya.

Shillong AIR-Field

748. **SHRI BIREN ENGTI:**
SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-
DHURY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shillong air-field is now open to air traffic;

(b) whether the air-field is now being used only by a private air corporation; and

(c) the reasons for not putting the Shillong air-field on the Indian Air lines map?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a). The aerodrome at Barapani near Shillong has been opened for operations by Dakota or similar type of aircraft.

(b) M/s. Jamair Company (Private) Limited, Calcutta, were granted permission for operating non-scheduled services to Barapani aerodrome and they started operating through Barapani from September, 1974.

(c) At present only 4000 feet of runway is ready for operation and works are in progress for extending the runway to the length of 6000 feet construction of terminal building etc. The question of Indian Airlines operating to Barapani aerodrome will arise when all developmental works are completed and the aerodrome is fit for operation of turbo-prop aircraft

Foreign exchange released for travels abroad

749. **SHRI BIREN ENGTI:**
SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-
DHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange released in the financial year 1973-74 and during the current year upto the end of September 1974 for travels abroad;

(b) the number of travels officially sponsored and those by private individuals and the amounts of foreign exchange released category-wise; and

(c) whether there was scope for reducing the number of foreign travels and scaling down the amount of foreign exchange?