

(a) whether any proposals have been received to set up industry to manufacture dry ginger in Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh, where sufficient ginger is produced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). No application for Industrial Licence/Registration has been received in the Department of Industrial Development for setting up an industrial undertaking to manufacture dry ginger in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Takeover of Sick Industrial Units in Kerala

*592. **SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government had made any proposal to Union Government for taking over any sick-industrial units in Kerala during 1989-90;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). As per information received, proposals relating to taking over of two units of Keltron by Bharat Electronics Limited and Punalur Paper Mills by Hindustan Newsprint Limited, a subsidiary of Hindustan Paper Corporation were received by the Union Government during 1989-90 from the State Government of Kerala.

(c) On the basis of a feasibility study carried out by Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL) a subsidiary of Hindustan Paper Corporation, it has not been found viable to run the Punalur Paper Mills Limited (PPM) in the present state of its plant and machinery.

In so far as taking over of two units of Keltron by Bharat Electronics Limited is concerned, it was not found feasible because of the depressed market conditions in the area of Semiconductors including power devices. However, Bharat Electronics Limited has been trying to help Keltron plant to the extent possible.

Airstrip at Omalur, Tamil Nadu

*593. **SHRI M.G. SEKHAR:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the proposal for providing an airstrip at Omalur in Salem district in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the construction work of the airstrip?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The pre-qualification of contractors for undertaking the work relating to levelling/grading of site and construction of pavements, roads, car park etc. has been completed. Tender documents are being issued and will be opened on the 10th of May, 1990. The above work is expected to be completed in about 14 months from the date of award of the contract.

As regards construction of terminal building and other associated works, the tender documents are under preparation. The construction work is expected to take about 12 months for completion from the date of award of the work order.