

expenditure tax, so as to reduce extravagant consumption and promote savings to a larger extent, thus effecting radical changes in the taxation system of the country;

(b) if so, whether any decision in this regard would be taken at an early date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the reforms contemplated by Government in the taxation system prevailing at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA)

(a) to (c) The previous Government had appointed a Study Group consisting of some senior officers of the Department to examine the feasibility of replacing income-tax by a tax on expenditure. The Report of the Group has been submitted and is under consideration of the Government. Reforms in fiscal policies are made from time to time as part of the Budget.

Export of Onions

*257. SHRI RAMKRISHNAN SADASHIVE MORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have permitted Export of Onions from India;

(b) if so, whether export licences have been issued to private exporters or whether the same will be exported by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, (NAFED) only; and

(c) if NAFED is to Export onions, what are the storage arrangements being made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. B. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of onions is canalised through NAFED. Private exporters are also allowed to undertake export through NAFED.

(c) NAFED hires storage capacity of conventional type in the onion growing areas for storage in addition to their own storage space.

New Airports during current Plan Period

*258. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what is the number of undeveloped airports in the country, (State-wise) and since when;

(b) what specific plans Government have framed for their development; and

(c) the number of new airports Government propose to construct during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Development of aerodromes is a continuous process and is planned according to the operational requirements and plan priorities within the available resources. There are 85 aerodromes under the control of the Civil Aviation Department, all of which are maintained in serviceable condition. The aerodromes to which Indian Airlines are operating or proposed to operate scheduled services are given priority in development for providing essential facilities required for the type of aircraft being operated/proposed to be operated.

(c) It is proposed to start construction of a new aerodrome at Calicut in Kerala.