

Production of Commercial Crops

*254. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. Anthony M. Solomon, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs of U.S.A., while he was addressing Southern Cotton Association in Tennessee, U.S.A. that U.S.A. has asked countries receiving American food assistance to review Governmental measures for providing incentives for the production of commercial crops such as cotton and coffee;

(b) whether Government have agreed to the proposal; and

(c) if so, whether there is going to be any change in the future policy and programme of cotton and coffee growing in the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir. The policy and programme have been evolved in the Draft Plan Outline and other documents placed before Parliament from time to time and are based largely on the strategy of intensive cultivation.

Modernisation of Airports

*255. **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri G. C. Nalk:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri A. Ditya:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the improvement of airports in the near future with a view to modernise them; and

(b) if so, when it is proposed to take up the work and fix priorities for the purpose?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). Improvement to airports is a continuous process and has to keep pace with the size, weight and speed of the aircraft utilizing these airports. Such improvements include airport facilities with associated ground equipment and also navigational aids and telecommunication facilities. These are undertaken at airports according to the availability of equipment and operational necessity through successive Five Year Plans. International airports and airports on the important domestic trunk and feeder routes are given priority.

Road Transport

*256. **Shri Surendra Kumar Tapuria:**
Shri D. N. Patodia:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that road transport, while it involves less investment vis-a-vis Railways, gives better revenues to Government and creates more employment opportunities in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to encourage road transport in the country and remove the impediments which are standing in the way of expansion of road transport?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-210/67].

Delays in I. A. C. Flights

*257. **Shri D. N. Patodia:** Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the frequent and unannounced delays in the Indian Airlines Corporation flights;

(b) whether Government are aware that at times the IAC flights are delayed to suit the programmes of Ministers and VIPs; and