

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b) On the basis of a survey conducted in September-October, 1974, the National Council of Applied Economic Research, in its report of May 1975, concluded that sale of controlled cloth in rural areas amounted to 15 per cent of the total sales. Since 1-1-1977, distribution of controlled cloth has been entrusted to the National Co-operative Consumers' Federation and, out of their 57,561 retail outlets engaged in the distribution of controlled cloth, 46,438 are in rural areas. Rural areas are getting substantially more controlled cloth than urban areas.

Import of CESSNA 152 Aircraft

*329. SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government have requested the Central Government for the release of foreign exchange for the import of four CESSNA 152 Aircraft for the immediate use of their flying training school; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The choice of a suitable aircraft for use by Flying Clubs is under examination and the State Government has been advised to await a decision in the matter.

Subsidising air fare to and from Tripura

*330. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that the main communication of Tripura with other parts of India is by air

only, Government propose to subsidise the recently increased amount of air fare for the flights to and from Tripura; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The fares and freight rates not only from Calcutta to Tripura but in the entire Eastern Region are already subsidised to the tune of 17 per cent in relation to those applicable to the rest of the country. These lower rates have been fixed taking into account the communication difficulties in the Eastern Region.

Renovation of Mohanbari Airfield

*331. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 101 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th June, 1980 and state:

(a) whether any progress has been made so far in renovating the Mohanbari airfield with a view to making it fit for the landing of Boeing aircraft;

(b) what is the amount spent so far on the project; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The work on extension and strengthening of the pavements commenced on 20-2-81 and is in progress.

(b) Rs. 4,07,213/- upto 31st July, 1981.

(c) Does not arise.