

(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the foreign tours undertaken by the Chief Executives and other senior executives of the public enterprises. These tours are undertaken by the public sector executives for bonafide official business. In the case of the Chief Executives, approval of the Minister incharge in the Ministry is required to be taken, whereas the tour programmes of other executives are approved by the Chief Executives of the concerned enterprises.

(c) During the year 1978-79, for which data is available in the Bureau, Chief Executives of 77 enterprises went abroad on official business. A sum of Rs. 41.4 lakhs was spent on this account.

Introduction of Air Service between India and Bhutan

60. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD
SHAHI:

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

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the air service between India and Bhutan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, by when above air service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The Government is considering a proposal by the Royal Government of Bhutan to establish air service between Paro and Calcutta.

(b) to (d) An Indian delegation is expected to visit Bhutan shortly for discussions. The details will be known after those discussions.

Public distribution corporations in various States

61. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to constitute Public Distribution Corporations in various States;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY):

(a) to (c) Distribution of essential commodities received from or through the central agencies is, by and large, being made by the state civil supplies corporations, state level apex cooperative bodies and other designated agencies. Under the Sixth Plan it has been suggested that where a strong cooperative movement exists, the apex bodies of consumer cooperatives and marketing societies may perform the responsibilities of procurement, storage, movement and distribution of essential commodities. The Plan also suggests that in other states it will be necessary to set up civil supplies corporations or strengthen the existing civil supplies corporations.

Shifting of headquarters of SAIL to Ranchi

62. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1217 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1980 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to shift the Headquarters of the Steel Authority of India Limited to Ranchi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?