

rate of 5 per cent of the effective basic excise duty leviable on them, cigarettes have been subjected to higher levy at rate of 10 per cent of the basic excise duty. Accordingly, the excise differential between biris and cheaper cigarettes has been increased.

It has not been found possible to accede to other requests made in the representations.

Private company to run air service

168. SHRI C. R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any proposal from a private company to run air service schedules from Bombay-Nanded-Sholapur-Bombay and Bombay-Kolhapur-Sholapur-Bombay; and

(b) whether any survey was undertaken for this purpose, if so, when and what are its results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected from the concerned agency, and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Air passengers from North Eastern Region to Delhi

169. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that air passengers from North Eastern Region to Delhi are required to wait from 4 hours to 10 hours at Dum Dum airport to catch the connecting Indian Airlines service to Delhi; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce a daily service via Lucknow, Varanasi, Patna, Bagdogra

to Gauhati to facilitate air travel between North-eastern region and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Since none of the airports in the North Eastern Region (except Agartala) has night landing facilities, flights from the stations of this region for Calcutta have necessarily to take off well before night fall and the passengers are forced to wait for the late evening flight from Calcutta to Delhi. Besides, Gauhati airport, the main aerial gateway of the Region, closes to jet aircraft operation by 1130 hours due to works on the runway apron.

(b) No, Sir.

Airport at Chabua

170. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: 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) by what time Mohanbari airport will be ready for regular air services; and

(b) whether Government have decided to have a permanent airport at Chabua also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The aerodrome is likely to be ready by the end of 1982.

(b) There is already a permanent aerodrome at Chabua under the Ministry of Defence.

Entry fee for visitors to Borjhar Airport Terminal Building

171. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the visitors to Borjhar Airport Terminal