

were held with the State Tourist officials, and details are being worked out by the Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh. Their proposals are awaited.

Construction of an airport at Hubli

1310. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to build an airport at Hubli is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and by when the airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to construct an aerodrome at Hubli. This project is likely to be considered in the context of Third Level Air Service which is under consideration of the Government.

Import of Natural Rubber by State Trading Corporation

1311. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what is the quantity of natural rubber imported by State Trading Corporation during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): A quantity of 21,100 tonnes of natural rubber was imported by State Trading Corporation during 1979-80.

Fare structure for passengers travelling abroad from India

1312. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an air ticket for travel by Air India from a city overseas to India costs less than that obtained in India for the return journey over the same route; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to set right this imbalance in fare structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDU-LAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b) Generally the fares to India are not less than the corresponding fares from India. But, certain Group Inclusive Tour Fares from Europe to India are lower than the corresponding fares in the reverse direction. Government is aware of this imbalance in fares, but it is not possible to eliminate these imbalances at one time, as air-fares are dependent on fluctuating factors like market requirements and currency relations. Efforts are being made to eliminate/reduce such imbalances progressively.

Funds to the State Government for supply of water at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1313. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Minister of Steel and Mines, Government of India to provide adequate funds to the State Government during the current year for the execution of Yelluru water supply scheme, which is required for supply of water at the operational stage of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission, who were moved in the matter, have since informed the Government of Andhra Pradesh that they have agreed to a provision of Rs. 10 crores (as originally proposed by the State Government) for the Yelluru Water Supply