

Construction of Calicut Airport

844. SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 477 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th March, 1980 and state:

(a) whether the construction work of Calicut Airport has since been started;

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The proposal for construction of an airport at Karipur near Calicut at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.52 crores is under active consideration of the Government. The proposal is included in the current Five Year Plan (1978-83). A token provision has been made in the budget the 1980-81. A decision is likely to be taken very shortly.

Equal pay for equal work

845. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrated wage-policy for the whole country is under consideration;

(b) if so, what are the details of the various proposals under consideration;

(c) whether Government propose to accept the principle of equal pay for equal work in all sectors in Central and State Governments, local bodies, Public enterprises and Private enterprises;

(d) whether Government are aware of heart-burning of employees regarding discrimination of wages for equal work; and

(e) if so, how do Government propose to consider this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) to (e) It is proposed to formulate a Wage Policy in consultation with the interests concerned at a Tripartite Conference to be convened shortly.

Items exported by the Food Processing industry

846. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the items which are at present exported by the food processing industry; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there are huge export markets for many other vegetables and fruits that are widely grown in different parts of the country and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The names, quantity and value of items exported by food processing industry during 1979-80 are given in the statement attached.

(b) At present mainly the typical Indian varieties of vegetables like Ogra, Karela, Tindi, Pernal etc. are exported. Among fruits, Mango occupies the major position with lesser quantities of various other tropical fruits like Sapota, grapes, papaya, citrus etc. There is demand for temperate fruits like apples, peaches, pears etc; but, India has not yet been able to make a dent in the market largely because of the higher incidence of transportation costs (particularly the refrigerated cargo).