

be maintained unless there is complete understanding by the recipient country; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) It is in the issue of the Hindustan Times dated 7th November, 1977 (and not in the issue of the Hindustan Times dated 12th November, 1977, as stated in part (a) of the Question) that a news item appeared wherein it had been stated that "the British Overseas Development Minister has given virtual notice to India that the current level of British aid may not be maintained unless there is continued understanding by the recipient country".

In the issue of the Hindustan Times of the 12th November, 1977, however, the Hindustan Times Correspondent has himself reported that a spokesman of the Ministry of Overseas Development of the British Government had denied that any ultimatum had been given.

Both the Governments are equally keen to ensure the fullest utilisation of aid extended by Britain to India and various proposals in this context are under the consideration of the Government.

Tourist traffic to Assam

587. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign tourist traffic to Assam has increased considerably in the recent months; and

(b) if so, whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has formulated any proposal to establish hotels in the State for meeting the needs of the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) As the statistics of foreign tourist arrivals are analysed on an all India basis and not State/city-wise, it is not possible to indicate whether or not foreign tourist traffic to Assam has under-gone any change over a specified period.

(b) The India Tourism Development Corporation plans to construct a hotel in Gauhati on the site on which the Department of Tourism had started -constructing a tourist bungalow. The project will be taken up for implementation subject to the availability of funds.

Jorhat Airport

588. SHRI C. P. MAJHI:

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN :

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

(a) whether construction work on the Jorhat airport terminal building has commenced; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir

(b) After completing the detailed estimates and other formalities, the work of construction of the terminal building at Jorhat aerodrome has been awarded and is expected to start shortly.

Export of handicrafts

589. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries alongwith the value of handicrafts exported

to each one of them during the years 1975-1976 and so far in 1977; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned on that account during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) Country-wise and value-wise export figure of Handicrafts for the year 1975-76 is enclosed. For the year 1976-77, the total figure of export is available at present, which is Rs. 169.82 crores, excluding gem and jewellery.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange earned from 1975-76 to 1977-78 (April—July) is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Foreign Exchange earned (excluding gem & jewellery)
1975-76	109.56
1976-77 (estimated)	169.82
1977-78 (provisional) (April—July)	45.65

Statement

Countrywise Exports from India of handicrafts during 1975-76

(Rs. in crores)		
Sl. No.	Country	Value of exports (excluding gem & jewellery)
1.	West Germany	25.30
2.	U.S.A.	23.03
3.	U.K.	7.03

Sl. No.	Country	Value of exports (excluding gem & jewellery)
4.	Saudi Arabia	6.69
5.	Canada	3.44
6.	France	3.30
7.	Australia	2.77
8.	Italy	2.51
9.	Japan	2.42
10.	Switzerland	2.36
11.	Netherlands	2.26
12.	U.S.S.R.	2.21
13.	Sweden	2.13
14.	Belgium-Luxembourg	1.96
15.	Denmark	1.75
16.	Singapore	1.40
17.	Kuwait	1.12
18.	Malaysia	0.91
19.	Lebanon	0.25
20.	Hong Kong	0.23
21.	South Yemen (Aden)	0.05
22.	Other Countries	15.59
TOTAL		109.56

Merger of State Financial Corporations with I.D.B.I.

590. SHRI BHAIYA RAM MUNDA:

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

SHRI JAGAN NATH
BHARDWAJ:

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge the State Financial Corporations