

### Shifting of Dimapur Airport

♦355. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHIA:  
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN  
SARING: SHRI NABIN  
CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

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

(a) whether Government propose to shift the Dimapur Airport to a new site; and

(b) if not, what are Government's plans to improve the existing Airport?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI . PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK); (a) There is no proposal to shift the Dimapur aerodrome to a new site.

(b) The, existing passenger building is being improved to provide additional space and passenger amenities. It is proposed to construct a permanent civil enclave in the Sixth Plan period.

### Rate of interest on advances to Fertilizer distribution agencies

\*356. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:  
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-  
DARA MENON; SHRIMATI  
AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of interest fixed by the Reserve Bank of India to be charged by commercial banks on advances made, to fertilizer distributors and cooperative societies distributing fertilizers; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to ensure that the commercial banks do not charge a higher rate of interest from the fertilizer distribution agencies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has not fixed any special rate of interest to be charged by commercial banks on advances made for distribution of fertilizers. However, whenever the Reserve Bank of India organises a consortium of banks for financing the distribution of pool and non-pool fertilisers, it arranges for the credit to be made available at a rate of interest of 14<sup>1/2</sup> per cent, per annum to State Government agencies in consultation with the financing banks. In the case of advances made to the Food Corporation of India for imported fertilisers under consortium arrangements the State<sup>1</sup> Bank of India charges a rate of interest of 14 per cent, while all the other banks in the consortium charge 1/4 per cent more.

(b) Complaints if any, received from Government agencies regarding charging of excessive rate of interest are looked into by the Reserve Bank of India.

### 'Aparthied Meals' for officers of Reserve Bank of India

\*357. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:  
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR  
ADIVAREKAR;

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Financial Express of July 18, 1977 under the caption "Aparthied Meals" given to the highly paid Officers of the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the, expenditure incurred by Government by way of subsidy on these meals;