

Repair of Aijal Air-strip

1354. SHRI LALBUAIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of dilapidated condition of the Aijal air-strip; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for its repair and maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Government are aware that the runway at Aizawl aerodrome which belongs to the Indian Air Force needs some repairs and improvement.

(b) The question of taking over the aerodrome from the Air Force and developing it for civil aviation is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Trade co-operation agreement with U.S.A.

1355. SMT. SUSHILA SHANKAR ADI-

VAREKAR:

SMT. SARASWATI PRADHAN:

SMT. SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations regarding a trade co-operation agreement with U.S.A. are in progress;

(b) if so, the broad pattern of the trade co-operation contemplated thereunder and the volume of trade to be exchanged; and

(c) the details of the proposals made by the Government of India in this agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c) No trade co-operation agreement is under negotiation at present with the U.S.A. However, there is a proposal to set up an Indo-U.S. Joint Commission on Economic, Commercial, Scientific, Technical, Educational and Cultural Cooperation which, inter alia, will also identify areas and suggest measures for closer cooperation in the field of trade.

Prosecution launched against steel dealers of Delhi

1350. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA;

DR. Z. A. AHMED: SHRI

S. G. SARDESAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 33 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 1974 and state whether any prosecution has since been launched following the searches of the residential and business premises of the iron and steel dealers in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. ft. GANESH): The searches in these cases were made in June, 1974.

After a search, the first step is to estimate the undisclosed income in a summary manner and to pass an order u/s 132(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, for retaining such of the seized assets as are considered to be sufficient to satisfy the tax liability on the estimated undisclosed income and any existing tax liability. This order has to be passed within 90 days of the search. The regular assessment proceedings are then taken up, where necessary by reopening the case. It is after these proceedings are completed establishing that there has been a false verification in the return of income, that prosecutions are launched.

In these cases, action was duly initiated for passing orders under section 132(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. These orders will be passed in early September.

The Iron and Steel Control authorities will also take such action as they consider necessary.

Permission sought for by foreign companies for continuing their existing business in India

1357. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 foreign companies are required to seek the permission of the Reserve Bank of India for continuing their existing business activities;