

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) & (b) In view of the recent increase in oil prices and other essential imports the Government has prepared a programme of exports for all countries including oil producing countries in the Persian Gulf Area and elsewhere. The crash programme envisages increase in exports of both traditional and non-traditional items.

The principal elements of the programme are:

- (a) Identification of products with maximum export potential in the immediate future,
- (b) Identification of destination to which exports of these products would yield maximum unit value realisation, and
- (c) Identification of measures which would augment the domestic production base and generate additional export surpluses for these products.

As a result of the crash programme it is expected that exports during the current financial year will be substantially higher than the rate of 7.6 per cent, envisaged in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan document. The exports to the oil producing countries including in the Persian Gulf Area are likely to be more than double during 1974-75 as compared to 1972-73 level.

Take-Over of Andrew Yule & Co.

*278. SHRI S. KUMAR AN:
SHRI KALYAN ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 321 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1973 and state what progress has been made in the verification of the assets and investments of Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd. with a view to take-over of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): The verification of the

assets and investments of Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd. has since been completed by National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking.

Deficit in State Budget for 1974-75

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

(a) whether the State Governments have approached the Central Government for additional grants to reduce the budget deficits and to meet their Plan expenditure; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and to what extent addition] grant, if any, is proposed to be given by the Central Government to the deficit States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No specific request for additional grants to reduce the budget deficits and to meet the Plan expenditure has been received from the State Governments. However, some of them have approached for Central assistance for meeting their carry-over deficits and for assistance outside the Plan for specific projects.

Construction of aerodromes in the country

*280. SHRI SAWA/SINGH SISODIA:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNDAWAT:

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR
SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM and CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the number and location of civil aerodromes proposed to be constructed in the country during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Besides the aerodrome at Barapani (Shillong) which is already under construction, it is proposed to start work on a new aerodrome at Hubli-Dharwar during the current financial year.