

international airport and expansion of aerodrome facilities in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) No Sir. However, several schemes for improvement to aerodromes in Gujarat State have been sanctioned. The terminal buildings at Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj and Rajkot aerodromes are being expanded and improved. The construction of a new passenger shed at Keshod is expected to commence shortly. The runway at Keshod aerodrome is being developed for HS-748 services and similar development of the runway at Porbandar aerodrome is expected to commence shortly. The taxi-track and apron at Ahmedabad aerodrome are being strengthened.

MONOPOLY IN IMPORT OF FERTILISER RAW MATERIAL

455. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Rahimtula Enterprises of Secundrabad has monopolised over fifty per cent of trade in the import of fertiliser raw materials; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to curb this monopolistic control?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOTEL AND WINTER SPORTS RESORT AT GULMARG

456. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount so far spent by the Central Government, the State Govern-

ment and the Indian Tourism Development Corporation in developing hotel and winter sports resort at Gulmarg; and

(b) how many tourists visited Gulmarg during 1972-73 winter motivated by ITDC-IAC package programme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) For the development of winter sports at Gulmarg the expenditure incurred by the Central Government from 1-4-1966 to 31-3-1973 is estimated at Rs. 118.84 lakhs. The State Government has so far spent about Rs. 36 lakhs. No expenditure has yet been incurred by the India Tourism Development Corporation on hotel construction in Gulmarg.

(b) A total of 5,705 tourists visited Gulmarg during 1972-73 winter season—4,398 domestic tourists and 1,307 foreign tourists including foreigners resident in India. Of these 59 tourists took advantage of the 6-day package tour for winter sports at Gulmarg sponsored by the Department of Tourism, Indian Airlines and a consortium of travel agents. In addition, of course, tens of thousands of tourists visit Gulmarg during the summer.

DISPARITY IN EXCISE DUTY ON TEA

457. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is disparity in the rates of excise duty levied on the same type of tea in different regions in the country; and

(a) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) Varying rates of excise duty were introduced in September, 1958 with a view to spreading the total Central Excise duty tax burden