

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

During the discussions held in January this year, the British Government agreed that the Commonwealth preferences would not be abruptly terminated. The progressive introduction of Common Customs tariff of EEC in UK will commence only from 1st January, 1974. Our efforts would be to seek solutions to the products of particular export concern to us before the end of this year. Efforts are already continuing both with the U.K. and EEC in this regard.

PRIORITY DEPRECIATION ASSISTANCE TO JUTE INDUSTRY

*166. SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGARLAMUDI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering a proposal for classifying the jute industry in the category of industries receiving the priority depreciation assistance;

(b) the extent to which jute industry is likely to get a boost thereby; and

(c) whether it would help increase India's foreign exchange earnings also?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) The list of industries eligible for the proposed initial depreciation allowance of 20 per cent has not been finalised.

(b) and (c) If jute industry is made eligible for such allowance, it will help generate funds for investment in modernization and diversification of production and consequently develop exports of jute goods.

GAUHATI AND JORHAT AIRPORTS

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a unanimous resolution adopted by the Assam Assembly for improving the Gauhati and Jorhat (Rowrah) Airports;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce Boeing services to Jorhat and Mohanbari; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) The resolution adopted by the Assam Assembly for improving Gauhati and Jorhat (Rowrah) aerodromes has not been received.

(b) Indian Airlines have no immediate plans to introduce Boeing 737 services to Jorhat and Mohanbari aerodromes.

(c) A proposal for the construction of a civil enclave at Jorhat aerodrome is under consideration. A scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 68.7 lakhs for extension and strengthening of the runway at Mohanbari aerodrome to make it suitable for Boeing 737 services has already been sanctioned and action to call tenders is in hand. The terminal building there is being expanded.

DEVELOPMENT OF BARODA AIRPORT

*168. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the Baroda Airport so that large size aircrafts could land there; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?