

STATEMENT

(a) In accordance with the Agreement between the Government of India and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Mr. Moshe Ram of Israel was assigned by F.A.O. "to advise and assist the Bihar State Government in the study and the application of improved irrigation practices to provide maximum productivity with the fullest economy at the irrigation supply available". The Expert stayed in Bihar for about two years up to July 1959.

(b) Yes; Sir. A report prepared by Mr. Moshe Ram was received in October, 1961 through the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

(c) A copy of the report was sent to the Government of Bihar for necessary action. The State Government observed that many of the recommendations were either outside the terms of assignment of the Expert or were of a general nature or too well known. However, the State Government adopted the recommendations of the Expert in regard to simple and reliable method for studying the water requirements of different crops in relation to soil, fertilisers, rotation of crops, etc. It also accepted the recommendations dealing with method of conducting irrigation research.

INTERNATIONAL AIR ROUTE TO MADRAS AIRPORT

933. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to attract foreign tourists to the Southern part of India by diverting International Air route to touch Madras Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Madras Airport is already an international airport and is served by Air-India, Indian Airlines Corporation and Air Ceylon on international services. The Malaysia-Singapore Airways have recently been permitted to operate air services to Madras, although it may take some time before they start their services. The question of re-designing terminal buildings and adding to other facilities at the Madras Airport as also those at Bombay and Delhi in order to provide for larger volume of future air-traffic is under consideration.

HOTELS AT TOURIST CENTRES

934. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise a fund of Rs. 5 crores to provide credit facilities to hoteliers for construction of hotels at Tourist Centres;

(b) if so, how much credit is earmarked for hoteliers in Madras State; and

(c) what are the broad principles observed in grant of such credits?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Government have decided to disburse loans to approved hoteliers for construction of hotels at Tourist Centres.

(b) No allocation of such loans has been made on regional basis.

(c) The principles on the basis of which the loans will be disbursed are under consideration and rules are being framed for this purpose.