

AIRPORT TAX

♦25. SHRI ABID ALI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions for collection of Airport Tax from foreign going passengers with a view to utilise the said amount to build and maintain good airports, particularly for international travels; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter and how much amount is estimated to be received through this source ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The question of levy of passenger service charges on all embarking international passengers was examined by Government and it has been decided that there is no justification at present for levying such a charge since the standard of amenities and facilities now provided, does not compare with those obtaining in countries where such charges are levied. The position will be reviewed after improvements to the four international airports, now on hand, are effected.

ABOLITION OF FOOD ZONES

♦26. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have recently approached the Central Government for the abolition of food Zones; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

RIVERS STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

♦27. SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, whose management was taken over last year by Government, is running at a high recurring loss?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY) : Yes.

CREDIT TO AGRICULTURISTS FOR HIGH-YIELDING VARIETIES PROGRAMME

♦28. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of credit proposed to be provided to agriculturists through co-operatives for high-yielding varieties programme during 1966-67; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the credit is proposed to be provided only through co-operatives ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

About 6.4 million acres are expected to be brought under the programme during 1966-67, both kharif and rabi. The total amount required to cover the cost of inputs and cash expenses of cultivation for this programme is estimated to be about Rs. 180 crores. The credit requirements of those participants in the programme who are members of cooperative credit societies are proposed to be fully met by the cooperatives with assistance from the Reserve Bank of India. The actual requirements of the member participants for the whole year, kharif and rabi, cannot be estimated at this stage.