

Harijan Welfare to constitute a committee to go into the matter of removal of untouchability and to examine the problem of economic uplift of the Scheduled Castes; and

(b) if so, what is the progress so far in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of the members of the proposed committee has been finalised. The formal consent of one of the members is still awaited.

OVERCROWDING AT AERODROME

*345. SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the aerodromes are overcrowded because of the presence of a vast number of non-passengers; and

(b) what action Government proposed to take to reduce such overcrowding?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir, particularly the international airports.

(b) This aspect is under examination along with the general question of improvements to be effected at the airports with particular reference to passenger handling facilities.

CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

*346. SHRI Y. A. REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal now with Government to start crop insurance scheme in the country; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) The proposal to introduce crop insurance scheme is under consideration.

ELECTION SYMBOL

*347. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether crossed hammer and sickle with a star has been allotted by the Election Commission as election symbol to any party:

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received by the Election Commission, protesting against this allotment;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission did not consider this representation; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL SECURITY (SHRI A. K. SEN): (a) The election symbol "Hammer and Sickle with a Star" has been allotted by the Election Commission to the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

(b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received by the Election Commission from the Communist Party of India and Swatantra Party, protesting against this allotment of symbol.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Election Commission carefully considered the representations but was unable to cancel or modify its decision in the absence of any valid reason for denying that party the symbol of its choice.

TOURISTS TO PONDICHERRY

*348. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Ministers of Tourism, Southern region, was held on the 3rd February, 1965; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to attract tourists to Pondicherry?