

†[THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (d) No Government of India vehicle is in the possession of any agricultural experts from the United States. All experts assigned to various agricultural programmes by U.S.A.I.D., Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation are allowed the use of cars, Station wagons, etc., for their official work by the Agency concerned, the vehicles being the property of the Agencies. Except for the vehicles belonging to the Rockefeller Foundation, these vehicles are exempt from road taxes under certain agreements and instructions. The State road taxes in the case of Rockefeller Foundation are paid by the Government Department or the State Government to whom the experts are assigned.]

This Ministry has no information regarding the personal cars, if any, owned by the experts.]

COTTON PRODUCTION

*408. { SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SHRI M. BASAVAPUN.
NALAH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experiments in India have shown that all types of cotton can be economically produced in India; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production of those varieties of cotton which are at present imported by India?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, except cottons with staple length higher than 1½ inches.

(b) India normally imports cottons with staple lengths of 1-1/16 inches and above. Following steps have been

†[] English translation.

taken to increase production of such cottons:—

- (i) Integrated Cotton Development Schemes operating in the cotton growing States are being continued.
- (ii) Package programme for long stapled cottons has been initiated in all the important cotton growing States.
- (iii) A scheme for the production of Sea Island cotton with staple of 1-3/16" is in operation in Kerala, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Madras.
- (iv) Various incentives, such as subsidies, loans etc. are being given for seeds, fertilisers and insecticides.

REVIEW OF THE INDIA-U.K. AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT

*409. { SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:
SHRIMATI S A R L A
BHADAURIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Inter-Governmental discussions between India and the United Kingdom were held recently in London to review the arrangements under the India-United Kingdom Air Services Agreement; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

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

(b) The main point of discussions was about operation of air service between India and London on a new route via Moscow. It was decided that Air India and British Overseas Airways Corporation may operate services on a reciprocal basis on this route.