

Direct flight from Cochin and Trivandrum to Middle East by Air India

924. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to start a direct flight from Cochin and Trivandrum to Middle East countries by Air India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): Air India do not have any proposal at present to start a direct flight from Cochin and Trivandrum to Middle East countries.

Export of rubber, coffee and spices by Kerala Government

925. SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rubber, coffee and spices exported from Kerala during 1976-77; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during that period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). The exact figures of export from Kerala State are not available. However, the quantity of coffee, rubber and spices exported from Cochin port during 1976-77 and foreign exchange earned therefrom during that period are given below:

Commodity	Quantity (Tonnes)	Foreign Exchange (Rs. Crores)
Coffee . . .	12,585	37.78
Rubber . . .	12,296	8.31
Spices . . .	24,628	46.15

Cooperative Movement

927. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to radicalise the cooperative movement in the country with the object to serve larger number of needy people; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). The Government of India lay great stress on the need for the cooperatives to serve larger number of needy persons, especially the weaker sections of the community. In order to provide for participation in the affairs of the co-operatives by the weaker sections, the Central Government have advised the state governments to incorporate suitable provisions in the state cooperative laws providing for automatic membership to persons who are duly qualified for admission as members under the provisions of the Act, the rules and the byelaws. This provision is intended primarily to ensure enrolment of the weaker sections of the population as members of the cooperatives. The Central Government have also advised the state govts. to provide in the state cooperative laws for compulsory reservation of seats in favour of weaker sections in the primary agricultural societies.

Special drives are being organised by the states to enrol the weaker sections in rural areas as members of the re-organised primary agricultural credit societies. Loaning policies and procedures are also being liberalised for the benefit of the weaker sections. A number of schemes have been formulated for cooperative development in fisheries, dairy, poultry, handloom, coir, seri-culture, primarily for the benefit of the weaker sections. Special