

Air Link with Bhutan

729. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhutanese Team visited India in the month of May, 1980 to discuss with Indian Airlines to have airlink with India; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raising of Lending Rate by Commercial Banks to Farm Sector

730. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to the commercial banks to raise the lending rate to the farm sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Credits to Priority Sectors of West Bengal

731. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) steps taken by Government to step up credits to the priority sectors of West Bengal so that the share in aggregate credit is raised from the

present level of 20 per cent to the proposed national average of 40 per cent; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The target of priority sectors accounting for 40 per cent of their aggregate credit by 1985 has been indicated to the public sector banks as an aggregative all-India objective. However, the need to secure greater efforts to enlarge the flow of credit to the priority sectors particularly in the rural and semi-urban areas of West Bengal is recognised. The banks have, therefore, been asked to examine the working of their branches particularly in such districts as have a very low credit: deposit ratio, provide adequate field staff in the rural and semi-urban branches and to secure programmed effort for increasing assistance to agriculture and allied activities and to artisans, craftsmen and village and small industries. A Standing Working Group under the con-venorship of the Reserve Bank of India and having representatives of the State Bank of India, the three lead banks in West Bengal and the State Government, has been set up to oversee the measures being taken by the banks to increase their lending to the priority sectors, particularly to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programme in the State of West Bengal.

Release of Funds by Banks for Small Sector in West Bengal

732. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the necessary funds are not being released by the Banks for the Small Sector in West Bengal;