

Proposal to re-carpet the Runways of various Airports

1805. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration to re-carpet the runways of various airports of the country in view of the recent incidents of deflating of tyres of planes while landing; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the airports to be covered under the project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) (a) and (b). None of the recent incidents of deflation or bursting of aircraft tyres was found to have been caused by the condition of the runways. The International Airports Authority of India and Civil Aviation Department maintain the runways at their respective airports and aerodromes in a serviceable condition.

Trade Agreements finalised during the last four Months

1806. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the new trade agreements finalised with various countries during the last four months;

(b) the main features of these trade agreements; and

(c) the steps taken to increase trade with socialist countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) A new trade agreement between India and Bangladesh was concluded on the 5th July, 1973. An Economic & Technical Cooperation Agreement was also signed between India and Iraq on the

6th April, 1973 and ratified on 26th July, 1973.

(b) (i) The agreement with Bangladesh shall come into force on 28th September, 1973, i.e., when the existing trade agreement expires. The new trade agreement will be valid in the first instance for a period of 3 years, but is extendable by mutual consent. There will be two tiers of trade as below:—

(a) A balanced Trade & Payments Arrangement in commodities of special interest to the two countries to the extent of Rs. 30.5 crores each way; and

(b) Trade outside the Balanced Trade & Payments Arrangements which will be regulated in accordance with the normal import, export and foreign exchange rules and regulations.

(ii) Main features of the Agreement with Iraq are that Iraqis have agreed to supply India crude oil under bilateral trading arrangement which would be on balanced basis to the greatest extent possible. India will assist Iraq with the supply of goods and services for a number of development projects in Iraq such as the Baghdad-Ramadi-Al Qaim Railway Project, steel rolling mills, electric power transmission facility, ship-building and repair facility, equipment for petroleum and chemical industries etc. Other imports from Iraq will be petroleum products, dates, etc

(c) The following are the steps generally taken for promoting India's trade with socialist countries:—

(i) During the bilateral annual trade talks, emphasis is always laid on increasing the volume of trade between India and socialist countries.

(ii) Participation in fairs and exhibitions in these countries by the Indian firms is arranged.