

Calicut Aerodrome

486. **SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any representation from the M.Ps. from Kerala requesting for early commencement of the construction of Calicut aerodrome near Karipur;

(b) whether there is any delay in taking up the construction work of the aerodrome; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the memorandum given by the M.Ps.?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The project for the construction of an aerodrome at Calicut was included in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan. However, due to increase in the cost of operations consequent on hike in price of aviation fuel and also their tight fleet position, Indian Airlines had to review their plans and found themselves unable to operate to Calicut in the Fifth Plan period. The project had, therefore, to be postponed. It is proposed to review the proposal again subject to availability of resources.

Accumulation of Unsold Controlled Cloth

487. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is still an accumulation of unsold stock of controlled cloth with the textile mills;

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have allowed the textile mills to sell freely the accumulated stock of controlled cloth; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) to (d). The monthly lifting of controlled cloth declined from the normal level of over 35,000 bales in the month of January to 29,878 bales in the month of February, to 24,781 bales in the month of March and to an abnormal level of 19,190 bales in April 1976. The shortfall in the monthly liftings resulted in an abnormal accumulation of controlled cloth. In order that controlled cloth did not remain stuck with the mills but moved to the consumer, Government took the decision to open alternative distributive outlets other than through cooperatives, but providing for safeguards against controlled cloth falling into the hands of processors, wholesalers, middlemen for commercial purposes. Care was taken to see that as a result of such sales shortages did not develop for distribution through the normal channels. The decisions are as follows:—

(i) Mills which were, as at the end of May 1976, carrying stocks of controlled cloth equal to one month's production obligation or more, alone were eligible for alternative methods of sales.

(ii) Stocks of controlled cloth packed upto the end of April 1976 in respect of which Release Orders had been issued by the Textile Commissioner, but were not covered by the despatch instructions by the National Co-operative Consumers Federation, were allowed for sale other than through co-operatives.

(iii) Sales thus allowed were at statutorily fixed prices and through approved wholesalers who were required to maintain accounts about the subsequent movements of controlled cloth.