

riage of life jackets is mandatory for overwater flights of commercial transport aircraft. Therefore, availability of life jackets on board is ensured and certified by engineers before releasing the aircrafts.

(b) In 1995, till date— 2373 life jackets were found missing/pilfered on Indian Airlines flights. No case of loss was reported on Air India's flight during this period.

(c) The loss suffered by Indian Airlines during the year is approximately Rs. 63 lakhs.

(d) Since passengers' hand baggage is not subjected to any search/screening by the airlines concerned, while deplaning, it is not possible to prevent these losses significantly. However, announcement on board the aircraft that life jackets are not carry away items, is under consideration of Indian Airlines.

Unutilised World Bank aid

125. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a considerable portion of World Bank aid to India lies unutilised;

(b) if so, what have been the aid/loan commitments by IMF and ADB for the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and the actual utilisation and disbursements for these years;

(c) which are the sectors where utilisation of aid/loans have been lower during these years; and

(d) what have been the reasons for slow utilisation of such aid/loans and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) The total undischarged balance under the World Bank line of assistance was US \$ 8.7 billion as on September 1995. The total figure of undrawn balance does not represent the

backlog. It only indicates the total amount that can be drawn over a period of time, and is dependent on the time profile of various projects.

(b) The aid/loan commitments and the actual utilisation (disbursements) for the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows:—

	Commitment		Utilisation	
	I	M F A D B	I	M F A D B
	(SDRm)	(US\$m)	(SDRm)	(US\$m)
1992-93	—	1060	1155	367.45
1993-94	—	447	231	194.34
1994-95	—	505	—	505.60

(c) In general, utilisation of aid/loan has been lower in Power and Social Sector in comparison to the other sectors. However, in the last few years utilisation has picked up in all sectors including Power and Social sectors.

(d) Some of the main reasons for slower than expected utilisation of external aid are inadequate provisioning and counterpart funding, procurement and contracting delays, start-up and other procedural delays.

Ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediating on flow of external aid to Central PSU's Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of Project Management Unit in Department of Economic Affairs are some of the steps taken by the govt. to improve aid utilisation.