

(b) what will be the passenger handling capacity of the new complex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) A new international passenger and cargo terminal with approach roads, taxi ways and related infrastructure is under construction at Delhi. The passenger terminal will have an area of 60,000 sq. metres and will have a capacity to handle 3.3 million passengers annually. Modern facilities including aerobridges, flight information systems, baggage conveyer systems will be installed in this terminal. The peak-hour capacity of the new terminal will be 3300 passengers. The cargo terminal will have an area of 14,000 sq. metres and is designed to handle 2,00,000 tonnes of cargo per annum.

As an interim measure, all international departures have been shifted to the interim international departure building commissioned recently.

Sterling Aid from U.K.

254. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom has recently made an offer of sterling aid to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The United Kingdom has been providing development assistance to India for a number of years and cash disbursement ceilings are indicated by the UK each year. Within such ceilings, individual projects or items of import are agreed between the two Governments from time to time for financing from the UK assistance. For the current year, the UK assistance is £110 million equivalent to about Rs. 165 crores.

There is no recent offer of any new sterling aid by the United Kingdom.

Vacation of Custom Warehousing Building at Prabhadevi, Bombay

255. SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hand over the Custom Warehousing Building at 400, Veer Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Bombay to its owner;

(b) if so, what steps so far have been taken by the Collector of Customs, Bombay to vacate the premises;

(c) what is the rent being paid by the Collector of Customs, Bombay to its owner;

(d) what are the reasons for not vacating the premises after the expiry of the lease period; and

(e) what are the terms and conditions of the lease-deed of the above property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rent being paid is Rs. 63,720 (Rupees Sixty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty only) per month.

(d) and (e) In terms of the lease deed entered into with the landlords, the Government has the option to extend the period of lease. Due to non-availability of appropriate accommodation, it has not been possible to vacate the building at Prabhadevi, Bombay.

Decentralisation of Excise Duty

256. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decentralise the excise duty; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The scope of the Question is not clear. The levy of central excise is centralised in the sense that the rates of duty are fixed by the Central Government, but its collection is decentralised in the sense that it is collected through the field formations located at different places throughout the country. The net proceeds from central excise duties are shared between the Centre and the States. Some duties of excise are levied and collected by the State Governments.

There is no proposal to 'decentralise' the central excise duties.

Fall in Occupancy Rates of the I.T.D.C. Hotels

257. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late the occupancy rates of the ITDC hotels have fallen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tourist inflow has also gone down; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Out of ITDC's 24 hotels, occupancy in 12 hotels has increased and in the remaining 12, it has decreased during the period April-June, 1984 as compared to the same period last year.

(b) and (c) While the number of tourists has not gone down in absolute terms, the growth rate in terms of percentage has declined from 17.6 per cent in April to 7 per cent in May and 4 per cent in June. This was mainly due to disturbed conditions in certain parts of the country.

Sick Textile Mills in Gujarat

258. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty four textile mills in Gujarat are sick;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the mills have sought financial assistance from the financial institutions;

(c) if so, whether any help has been rendered by the financial institutions; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are contemplating to nationalise them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) The cases of 24 sick/closed mills in Gujarat have been referred to a group of officers constituted by the Government. The group of officers is examining the cases with a view to explore the possibility of rehabilitating those mills which are potentially viable. The group includes representatives of the financial institutions and the banks. In case of 13 of these mills, rehabilitation packages involving financial assistance by the financial institutions and banks have been worked out.

(d) Government are not contemplating to nationalise these mills at present.