

travel in the country are being violated with the collusion of Indian Airlines staff, such as loaders, etc.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking or have taken to properly screen such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir. Violation of safety rules in this manner has come neither to the notice of the airlines nor the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Value of Exports/Imports

272. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total value of exports to other countries during the last six months; and

(b) what was the total value of imports during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) According to provisional data upto March, 1984, India's overall exports to other countries during the last six-months period from October, 1983 to March, 1984 were valued at Rs. 4864.68 crores whereas imports during the same period amounted to Rs. 8506.93 crores.

Racket in Air Tickets in Delhi

273. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any racket in air tickets in Delhi in collusion with the Indian Airlines Traffic Assistants, Officers and travel agent has recently been detected;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Income-Tax Assessment in respect of Madras Race Club

274. SHRI T. THANGABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras Race Club is assessed to income-tax;

(b) what are the details of the income-tax assessments made during the last three years in respect of the Club and the tax paid by it; and

(c) what are the details of the other Race Clubs in India which are assessed to income-tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

Loan Sought from the World Bank by the Tamil Nadu Government for Road Transport System

275. SHRI T. THANGABALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tamil Nadu Government has approached the World Bank to finance road transport system in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the amount of loan sought by the Tamil Nadu Government and the amount offered by the World Bank; and

(c) whether the World Bank has put a condition on the Tamil Nadu Government to raise the bus fare as a pre-condition for the sanctioning of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PURI PRANAB TITTMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) International Develop-

ment Association (IDA) have extended a credit of 42 million for Second Madras Urban Development Project, which includes an urban transport component. Apart from this, there is no other proposal at present for World Bank assistance to finance road transport system in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The total cost of the project mentioned at (a) above is Rs. 73.9 crores of which IDA has extended a credit to the tune of 42 million.

(c) No Sir. The credit was sanctioned by IDA on 14-1-1981.

**Fraud on Punjab National Bank by
IRCI Appointed Executive Director of
Bengal Potteries Limited**

276. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI M. KADHARSHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from a Member of Parliament dated the 11th July, 1984 regarding the massive fraud of over rupees one crore of the Punjab National Bank by the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India appointed Executive Director, Shri G. K. Bhagat and others of the Bengal Potteries Limited;

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

(c) when was this fraud detected and what are the details in this regard;

(d) whether any persons have been arrested in this connection; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the I.R.C.I., against the persons involved in conspiracy and cheating of public money and if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a)
and (b) A letter dated 11-7-1984 has

been received from a Member of Parliament drawing attention to a News Paper report relating to arrest of the Executive Director and 6 other employees of M/s. Bengal Potteries Limited for alleged cheating of Punjab National Bank. The letter has demanded that all the arrested officers should be immediately suspended since a *prima facie* case of cheating had been established against them.

(c) By October, 1982, when a large number of bills discounted in favour of the Company were returned unpaid, the Punjab National Bank decided to investigate into the transactions of the Company. A detailed inspection revealed certain irregularities in the transactions and an FIR was lodged in this regard with the Police Authorities.

(d) According to available information, the Executive Director along with 6 other officials of the Company were arrested in connection with the case filed by the Punjab National Bank.

(e) IRCI has reported that the Board of Management of the Company had got the matter investigated into and on the basis of the findings, Manager-Marketing (Crockeries) and Bills-in-Charge were suspended. The Board of Management had directed that FIR for criminal proceedings be filed against these 2 officers after obtaining legal opinion. The opinion of two counsels taken by the Company was that no criminal offence was committed by the officers of the Company and as such no question of cheating arises and, therefore, no criminal action lies against the Company or the officers. Thereafter, the two officers were censured and allowed to re-join duty.

IRCI has further reported that the matter is now *sub-judice*.