

28-11-1980 are given in Annexure. [See Appendix CXVI, Annexure No. 109].

(b) The main thrust of the Government policy, is to increase production of various essential commodities, particularly of commodities in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and streamlined. Credit policy continues to be restrictive. The export of essential commodities is being regulated, while some essential commodities in short supply are being imported. From time to time, Union Government has been stressing on the State Governments to vigorously implement the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Orders issued under it as well as Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Measures to effect economies in Air India

1806. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what measures Government have taken in the last few months to effect economics in Air India set-up and what has been the effect of these measures; and

(b) what was the financial loss suffered by Air India six months ago and what is the current loss?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The following steps are being taken to effect economies in the expenditure of Air India:

1. Review of staff strength.
2. Reorganisation of Regional Directors' establishments at Sydney and Hongkong.
3. Closure of unremunerative offices.

4. Economy in fuel consumption to the extent possible.

5. Deferring of the aircraft acquisition plans.

6. Increase of frequency/introduction of Boeing-747 aircraft in place of Boeing-707 aircraft, wherever justified.

7. Rationalisation of route structure.

(b) The profit and loss figure of Air India will be known only after the Accounts for the year 1980-81 are finalised.

1807. [Transferred to the 19th December, 1980].

Measures to eradicate corruption in the public distribution system

1808. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has taken any measures to eradicate and control rampant corruption in many of the public distribution centres; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the effect of these measures and how have these measures mitigated the difficulties and hardships of consumers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJMOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b) Under the present set-up, the organisation and administration of the public distribution system is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The State Governments are, therefore, responsible for ensuring proper distribution of essential commodities to consumers through the outlets of the public distribution system. The powers under the provisions of the Essential Com-

modities Act, 1955 to issue orders, notifications for supply and distribution of essential commodities notified under the Act have been delegated to the State Governments for this purpose. The State Governments are keeping their public distribution system under constant review and taking necessary action against licencees of the outlets found guilty of malpractices. The State Governments have also been advised to set up consumer committees of local representatives at village, taluka, district and State levels to oversee the functioning of the fair price shops under the public distribution system. Steps taken by the State Governments in this direction have assured regular supply of available essential commodities to the consumers.

Panel on General Agreement of Trade and Tariff

1809. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed panel on General Agreement on Tariff and Trade to hear Indo-U.S. disputes between the two countries over countervailing duties on the industrial fasteners has since been constituted;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to begin the hearing from the representatives of the two countries; and

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The GATT Council decided in its meeting held on 10-11-1980 to establish a panel to deal with the

Indo-US dispute regarding imposition of countervailing duties by the US on dutiable products imported from India without proving injury to their domestic industry. It further decided that the terms of reference and composition of the Panel would be finalised by the Chairman in consultation with both the delegations. Such consultations are presently in progress. According to the GATT law, the panel is required to be constituted as promptly as possible and normally not later than thirty days from the decision to establish it.

Construction of New Hotels

1810. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hotels which are proposed to be constructed during the next two years, keeping in view the rush of tourists especially for the Asian Games;

(b) the places where these hotels are likely to come up and the companies interested in these enterprises;

(c) what will be the room capacity and the status of these hotels, and

(d) whether these hotels will start functioning before the Asian Games start?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (d) A statement indicating the particulars of hotels proposed to be constructed during the next two years to meet the requirements of visitors to the Capital for the Asian Games as well as details of hotels currently under construction in the Capital is attached.