Seizure of fake currency in Jammu and Kashmir

- \dagger^{*} 131. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
 - (a) the value of fake currency seized in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10;
- (b) whether it is a fact that agencies investigating the smuggling of fake currencies have indicated the connivance of some bank officers of frontier States;
- (c) whether large number of fake currency notes have been recovered from a senior bank officer of Gandarbal area in Jammu and Kashmir (J & K); and
 - (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The details of Value of fake currency seized during the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 (upto 31st May, 2010) as provided by National Crime Record Bureau, are as under:—

Year	Total value (in rupees)
2008	75,681,060
2009	89,220,402
2010	56,238,409
(upto 31st May, 2010)	

^{*}The figures are provisional.

The involvement of bank officers in FICN was revealed in a recent case, involving head cashier in the Mehru Murtia, Distt. Sarasvati Branch of Allahabad bank. Earlier a cashier at currency chest of a SBI branch at Dumariaganj Uttar Pradesh was found involved in circulation of fake currencies in 2008.

The recovery of large quantum of fake currency from senior bank officers in the Gandarbal area of Jammu and Kashmir has not come to notice.

Losses of Al and IA

- \dagger^{*} 132. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of loss incurred by Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the main reason behind its losses is spending of most of its earnings on establishment;
 - (c) if so, the plans being made by department to make up the loss; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Air India had incurred a loss of Rs. 2226.16 crores and Rs. 5548.26 crores during the financial year 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. Air India is expected to incur a loss of Rs. 5,656.52 crores during the year 2009-10.

(b) to (d) The reasons for losses are mainly due to the prevalent economic recession, and low yields and load factors coupled with higher fuel costs.

NACIL has initiated action as part of the Turnaround Plan along with a cost reduction and revenue enhancement programme focusing on Fleet Rationalization, Route profitability, Manpower Rationalization and Structural Changes. Additional measures to cut costs that include wage rationalization and other expenses are also part of the turnaround process.

Promotion on medical tourism in Punjab

 \dagger^* 133. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to promote medical tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that two large hospitals of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) situated at Nangal and Talwara in Punjab have picturesque locations;
- (d) whether Government proposes to use these two hospitals for promoting medical tourism; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Ministry of Tourism has included the promotion of Medical Tourism as a new initiative. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA), administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial support to approved tourism service providers.

MDA scheme has also been extended to Medical and Wellness Tourism service providers. Financial support under the MDA Scheme will be provided to approved medical tourism service providers, *i.e.* Hospitals accredited by Joint Commission for International Accredited Hospitals (JCI) and National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) and Medical Tourism facilitators (Travel Agents/Tour Operators) approved by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and engaged in Medical Tourism.

Actions required from individual Hospitals are:

(i) Obtain Accreditation with National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers [NABH].

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.