

He gave an option to the owners to reship the aeroplane on payment of a fine of Rs. 40,000. The fine was paid on the 28th October, 1977, but the aeroplane was not reshipped. Thereafter, proceedings under Section 130 of the Customs Act, 1962, were initiated by the Central Board of Excise and Customs.

In March, 1980, M/s. Thomas Mouget and Co. (India) Ltd., informed the Board that M/s. Seymour Shipping Ltd. had offered the aeroplane in question to M/s. Thomas Mouget and Co., London, and that on the latter's advice, M/s. Thomas Mouget and Co. (India) Ltd. were prepared to clear the plane against the Customs Clearance Permit issued to them.

Having regard to the terms of the Customs Clearance Permit produced by M/s. Thomas Mouget and Co. (India) Ltd. and the pleas and grounds put forth by them before the Board and the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, the Board, in exercise of its quasi-judicial powers under Section 130 of the Customs Act, 1962, set aside the order dated the 24th September, 1977, passed by the Collector of Customs, Bombay, and directed that M/s. Thomas Mouget and Co. (India) Ltd. be Permit dated 7th January, 1977 held by them, on filing Bill of Entry and complying with the requisite procedures for the clearance of the said plane. M/s. Thomas Mouget (India) Ltd. accordingly cleared the aeroplane in May, 1980 against their Customs Clearance Permit, after paying duty of Rs. 61,248.35.]

Foreign exchange earned from tourists

1306. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of International tourists who visited India from 1st January to 30th June, 1980; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned from them during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) The number of international tourists who visited India during the period January to June, 1980 were 365,462.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange earned from them during this period is tentatively estimated at Rs. 162 crores at 1976-77 prices.

Shortage of currency notes in Banks in Kerala

1307. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of one rupee and two rupees currency notes in the Banks of Kerala State; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir, recently the Reserve Bank of India received a few complaints regarding shortage of small denomination notes in Kerala. The temporary shortage was due to insufficient supply of fresh currency notes on account of various reasons such as the agitations at some branches of the State Bank of India, strike for about 3 weeks in the Indian Security Press, Nasik and non-availability of Police Escorts for some time during the recent elections.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India have informed that the currency chests in Kerala have since been supplied with sufficient fresh notes and One-Rupee coins.