

distribution system has been strengthened. Steps have been taken to restrain growth of money supply. The price situation is being kept under constant surveillance and further measures are taken as and when become necessary in the light of emerging trends.

Nationalisation of Banks and decline in Deposits..

175. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of deposits in the recently nationalised banks have started declining;

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

(c) whether Government propose to nationalise some more banks in the near future; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India have reported that the deposits (excluding inter-Bank deposits) of the six banks nationalised recently have not declined but have shown an increase as given below:—

Name of the Bank	*Deposits	(Rs. in crores)
	11-4-1980 †	4-7-1980
*Provisional.		
†Relate to the Friday immediately prior to nationalisation.		
1. New Bank of India	394.75	414.32
2. Oriental Bank of Commerce	220.69	246.08
3. Punjab & Sind Bank	473.03	501.18
4. Andhra Bank	475.10	497.76
5. Corporation Bank	223.98	224.04
6. Vijaya Bank	371.83	382.96

(c) There is no such proposal under Government's consideration at present.

(d) Does not arise.

.. Enquiry into aircraft accident

176. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry ordered into the PITTS aircraft accident of June 23, 1980 has since been completed;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The inquiry is progressing satisfactorily.

Import of dry and fresh fruits from Afghanistan

177. SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA
HANDIQUE:
SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

abolish the present import policy under Open General Licence for the import of dry and fresh fruits from Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether Government intends to issue fresh Import Licences in this behalf; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, by when the licences are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The O.G.L. import policy is applicable to dry-fruits (excluding cashew nuts) and Dates (wet or dried) imported in Indian sailing vessels. Fresh fruits are imported only through National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation (NAFED). No decision has been taken to change this policy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Geneva agreement to absorb fluctuations in world commodity trading

178. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete benefits will accrue to India as a result of the recent Geneva agreement for a 700 million dollar common fund to absorb fluctuations in world commodity trading; and

(b) whether the fund is expected to help our balance of trade position with America and the European Economic Community and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities adopted in Geneva last month envisages a total capital of US \$ 750 million. The Fund will consist of two accounts. The First Account of US \$ 400 million is intended for financing of international

buffer stocks and internationally co-ordinated national stocks. The Second Account of US \$ 350 million is intended for financing of measures in the field of commodities other than stocking including research and development, productivity improvements, marketing and measures designed to assist as a rule by means of joint financing or through technical assistance, vertical diversification. The Fund will thus through its two Accounts make available financial assistance for various commodity related measures designed to sustain stabilize and improve export earnings. Commodities of export interest to India such as Jute, Tea and Coir may become eligible for such assistance. However, this will be possible only after appropriate international commodity arrangements for these commodities have been concluded.

(b) Improvement in export earnings from the commodities as a result of measures undertaken with financial assistance of the Common Fund could lead to improvement in the balance of trade position of India with the U.S.A. and the E.E.C.

"Wet lease operation" by the Indian Airlines

179. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the routes which were put under the scheme of 'wet-lease operation' by the Indian Airlines during the last five years;

(b) the terms and conditions especially in respect of the operation cost, responsibility of maintenance and scrutiny; and

(c) the percentage of the fare to be paid by the particular operators to Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) In view of the shortage in capacity for carriage of passengers and freight the following routes were operated under