

Air accidents

121. SHRI S. W. DHABE;

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR

SAHU:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air accidents which took place during the last six months due to birds and cattle menace;

(b) the nature and place of accidents and the damage caused; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) There were two notifiable accidents due to bird strike and cattle menace during the last six months ended on 30th June, 1979 as follows;

(1) Royal Nepal Airlines, Boeing 737 aircraft while approaching to land at Patna Airport was hit by a bird on 26th May, 1979. The bird hit shattered the wind shield glass panes and the Pilot and Co-pilot sustained injuries.

(2) Indian Airlines' Boeing 737 aircraft VT-EDS during landing run at Nagpur Airport hit three cows on the runway on 22nd May 1979. The aircraft had sustained substantial damage, but all the 125 passengers and 6 crew members on board escaped unhurt.

(c) The following steps have been taken to prevent birds and cattle menace at the airports: —

(1) A study of the methods adopted by the authorities of other countries to tackle the bird menace has been undertaken and these will be suitably adopted to the extent possible and practicable at the airports in our country.

(2) At Nagpur airport boundary wall is being built replacing the present wire fencing.

(3) Frequency of the runway inspections especially before the landing of the aircraft has been increased.

(4) Aerodrome staff have been provided with R/T sets for informing the Control Tower of stray cattle when sighted during runway inspection.

(5) Regarding birds nuisance at aerodromes, already existing instructions relating to measures against bird strikes have been reviewed and revised instructions issued.

Trade deficit

122. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revised figures of exports and imports for 1978-79 released on 21st June, 1979 show that there has been trade deficit of Rs. 1,085 crores; and

(b) if so, what are the factors responsible for this trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

Statement**INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT**

According to the latest provisional estimates, India's exports during April, 1978-March, 1979 amounted to Rs. 5618 crores against corresponding figure of Rs. 5304 crores, showing an increase of 5.9 per cent over the year. The latest provisional figure of imports during 1978-79 is Rs. 6703.9 crores as against corresponding figure of Rs. 6020 crores for 1977-78, show-