

(b) by when these instalments are likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b) Government have already decided to pay one more instalment of dearness allowance to the Central Government employees with effect from 1-11-79, consequent on the 12-monthly average of the All India Average Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960=100) reaching 344 points at the end of October, 1979. Formal orders for the payment of this instalment will issue shortly. Government have taken note of the fact that another instalment of dearness allowance has become due for consideration with effect from 1-2-1980 at the index average level of 352.

Air travel facilities between Jammu and Srinagar

•11. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy air passenger rush between Jammu and Srinagar; and

(b) if so, what steps Govt. propose to take to augment air services between Jammu and Srinagar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines are operating a daily shuttle service with HS-748 aircraft (IC-422A/421A) on the sector Srinagar/Jammu in addition to the scheduled service on the route Delhi/ Chandigarh/Jammu/Srinagar and back (IC-421/422). Introduction of a Boeing-737 service between Jammu and Srinagar will be considered by Indian Airlines after the Jammu airfield is ready for Boeing-737 operations.

Setting up a steel plant in Nigeria

*12. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for collaboration in setting up a steel plant in Nigeria; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*13. [Transferred to the 20th March, 1980].

Decline in the Value of Rupee

*14. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the value of the rupee has gone down both internally and internationally during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Internal Value of Rupee

The internal value or purchasing power of the rupee with reference to the movement in the All-India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (Base year 1960=100), declined from 27.78 Paise in August 1979 to 20.05 Paise in January, 1980. The main factors responsible for the price rise and hence the decline in the value of rupee are: