

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Foreign collaboration with Indian Hotels

*272. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION

Hotels

(a) when was the first foreign collaboration in the hotel industry granted and to which Indian party;

(b) what is the number of existing foreign collaborations and what are the terms of collaborations; and

(c) what are the reasons for not encouraging the public sector in this field?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The first foreign collaboration agreement in the hotel industry approved by Government was between M/s. East India Hotels Company and Intercontinental Hotels Corporation, USA in the year 1961 for the construction of the Oberoi Intercontinental in New Delhi.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix CIX, Annexure No. 43].

(c) The India Tourism Development Corporation and the Hotel Corporation of India, are the two Government of India Undertakings which run hotels in the public sector. The India Tourism Development Corporation has not felt the need for the present to enter into foreign collaboration agreements. The Hotel Corporation of India is negotiating with the Hokke Club of Japan to set up two small hotels, one each at Kushinagar and Rajgir.

Air service between Port Blair and Madras

*273. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHL-

DEEN:

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to operate an air service between Port Blair and Madras;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be operated; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). Indian Airlines will consider introducing an air service between Port Blair and Madras as soon as their fleet is augmented.

8th instalment of D.A. for Government Employees

*274. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASMI:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the point of the index at which the 7th instalment of D.A. was sanctioned.

(b) what was the index point as on the 30th April 1979 month-wise since January, 1979;

(c) whether the Central Government employees have become entitled for the 8th instalment of D.A.; and

(d) if so, by when they are likely to be given the 8th instalment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Instalments of D.A. are linked to changes in the All India Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (1960-100) which is compiled on a monthly basis and is distinct from the Wholesale price Index (1970-71=100) which is compiled weekly. While the former is available 5-6 weeks after the end of the month to which it relates, the latter is available with a time-lag of 2-3 weeks. The seventh instalment of Additional Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees was granted with effect from 1-12-1978 when the 12-month average of the Consumer Price Index crossed 328 for the period December 1977 to November 1978.

(b) to (d). The latest available Consumer Price Index is for the month of March 1979 and stands at 332, the same level as the January 1979 even though the Wholesale Price Index has risen from 185.3 to 188.7 between January and March 1979 and has since then risen to 193.7 for April 1979. The 12-month average of the Consumer Price Index for the period April 1978 to March 1979 comes to 331.42 whereas the next instalment of Dearness Allowance will become due only when this average reaches 336.

Licensed goldsmiths in Uttar Pradesh

*275. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
SHRI HARI SHANKAR BHABHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions under which licence is issued to private goldsmiths for gold refining;

(b) the number of licensed goldsmiths who are working as gold refiners in Moradabad District in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether complaints have been made alleging the existence of unlicensed refiners in Moradabad District and officials working in league with the unlicensed goldsmiths; and

(d) whether an enquiry has been made; if so, what are the details of findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). As per the policy of the Government, no licence for refining of gold by private refiners has been issued/renewed since 1-1-1969. However, a private refinery at Calcutta is continuing to operate under an injunction issued by the Calcutta High Court on a writ filed by them.

(c) and (d). One complaint regarding operation of illicit gold refiners in some of the western districts of Uttar Pradesh with the collusion of Central Excise Officers was received. Enquiries conducted in this regard have not revealed the existence of illegal gold refining on any significant scale.

Bank Loans to manual workers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to give bank loans to manual workers who do not have any assets;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) and (b). Banks do not insist on tangible securities or third party guarantees from small borrowers for viable productive purposes in priority sectors of agriculture and allied