

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) No, Sir. The export of snakes from India has been banned for the last more than two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

उड़ान संख्या 411 और 412 के लिये फॉकर विमान के बजाय बोइंग विमान

1844. श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शही :
क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उड़ान संख्या 411 तथा 412 की अत्यधिक भीड़-भाड़ और लम्बी प्रतीक्षा-सूची को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने इन उड़ानों के लिये फॉकर विमान के बजाए बोइंग रखने का फैसला किया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसा कब से किये जाने की सम्भावना है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

Replacement of Fokker aircraft by Boeing for flight Nos. 411 and 412

†1844. SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to replace the Fokker aircraft by the Boeing for flight Nos. 411 and 412 keeping in view the heavy rush and a long waiting list of passengers for these flights; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be replaced and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक) : (क) और (ख) जी नहीं । फिलहाल इंडियन एयरलाइंस का अपनी उड़ान संख्या आई० सी०-411/412 (दिल्ली/कानपुर/

इलाहाबाद/गोरखपुर वाराणसी/बलवत्ता और वापस) पर एफ-27 के बदले बोइंग—737 विमान चालू करने का कोई विचार नहीं है ।

[THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Airlines has no plan at present to replace F-27 with Boeing 737 aircraft on flight Nos. IC-411/412 (Delhi|Kanpur|Allahabad|Gorakhpur|Varanasi|Calcutta and back).]

Excise duty on tea

1845. SHRI TILOK GOGOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major portion of Assam's production of tea is now taxed at the highest rate of excise duty on the existing zonal basis;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the strong resentment against the existing system and the tea industry has urged that the rates should be changed by dividing the country either in two zones or a flat rate of duty should be imposed on all areas instead of making piecemeal changes; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the aforesaid suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Tea produced in District of Darrang excluding Mangaldai sub-division and the district of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar in Assam State, comprising of Zone V. is assessed to basic excise duty at the rate of Rs. 1.30 per kilogram, which is the highest rate of basic excise duty on the existing zonal basis; however tea produced in the Districts of Goalpara and Cachar in Assam State is assessed to basic excise duty at the

†[] English translation.

rate of 40 paise per kilogram and the tea produced in the districts of Nowgaon and Kamrup and Mangaldai sub-division of Darrang District in Assam State is assessed to basic excise duty at the rate of 60 paise per kilogram. Tea produced in Zone V accounts for about 42 per cent of the black loose tea produced in the country.

(b) and (c) Some representations have been received from the tea industry requesting for restructuring of existing zones for the purposes of levying excise duties as well as for revision of the rates of duties as such. No final decision has been taken on these representations.

Raids by Income-tax authorities in February, 1979

1846. SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income-tax authorities have raided in February, 1979 offices and residential premises of 13 firms belonging to a business group;

(b) whether it is a fact that such raids have been organised throughout the whole country;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for such raids; and

(d) what are the details of the property seized during these raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLA): (a) The Income-tax Department searched 14 premises belonging to a business group on 23/24th February, 1979.

(b) and (c) A search and seizure operations authorised by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Director of Inspection if in consequence of information in his possession, he has reason to believe that the person concerned is in possession of any money bullion or other valuable article or thing which has not been or would not be disclosed, or has omitted or failed to

produce such books of account or other documents as required by a summons or a statutory notice or would not produce any books of account or other documents in response thereto. Searches are authorised wherever necessary and where the above conditions are found to prevail.

(d) The Income-tax authorities conducted 965 search operations upto the period ending 31st January, 1979 during the current financial year. Assets of the total value of Rs. 362 lakhs were seized during these searches.

Irregularities in Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch

1847. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from any quarter regarding certain irregularities in the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch demanding thorough enquiry into the whole affairs of the factory; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Yes Sir. A representation dated 6-1-1978 alleging certain irregularities in the Government Opium & Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch, was received from the Government Opium & Alkaloid Employees Sangh, Neemuch.

(b) The allegations made in the aforesaid representation are being looked into.

Stockpiling of drugs in Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch

1848. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drugs worth crores of rupees have piled up in Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory at Neemuch; and