

ruary 1979 from a Member of Parliament regarding difficulties in the Indian Airlines office at Calcutta; and

(b) if so, whether staff and officers have been instructed to accept cheques from Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has received a letter dated 13.2.79 from Shri Kal-yan Roy, M.P. regarding acceptance of cheques from Members of Parliament for payment of air fares. There are already standing instructions to all the staff of the Indian Airlines to accept cheques from Members of Parliament in lieu of cash for air fare. In view of the present complaint from Shri Kalyan Roy, M.P., the instructions have been reiterated and the staff cautioned to ensure that cheques from MPs. are accepted.

Price rise after presentation of Budget (1979-80)

1841. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that the general price level is on the rising trend after the presentation of the General Budget (1979-80);

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

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to arrest the price-rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) The Index of wholesale prices is not available beyond the week ending February 24, 1979

(c) Some price rise is to be expected as a result of the resource raising effort required for implementation of the country's developmental effort. However, it is Government's endeavour that such price rise should be

kept within tolerable limits. The price situation is kept under constant surveillance and action taken as and when necessary, to prevent any undue rise in prices.

Money circulation

1842. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the velocity of the Indian money in circulation has increased during the last two years;

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

(c) if not, what is the present quantity of currency in circulation. vis-a-vis its velocity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The average income velocity of money supply (ratio of national income at current market prices to money supply) declined from 5.54 in 1975-76 to 5.18 in 1976-77 and further to 4.88 in 1977-78.

(c) Currency with the public (average of outstanding as on last Friday of every month) stood at Rs. 8229 crores in 1977-78.

Export of snakes

1843. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India-exports snakes abroad;

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which snakes are exported; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years, country-wise?

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 शाही :
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 हाँ, 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

U844. 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/कलकत्ता 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.