

cial corporation to help small trade and cottage sectors;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks and other public financial institutions have opposed this proposal; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLA): (a) to (d) The question of setting up a separate financial agency to meet the credit requirements of small scale industries is being examined by Government.

Withdrawal of Airbuses from Gulf routes

1857. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has decided to withdraw its airbuses from the Gulf routes;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that this may result in difficulties for people going to gulf countries; and

(d) if so the steps being taken to see that the passengers to gulf countries are not put to difficulties and inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Because of the loss of one Boeing 737 aircraft due to an accident at Hyderabad in December, 1978, and the need to maintain a satisfactory level of on time performance, Indian Airlines, in consultation with Air-India, have decided to withdraw their Airbus Charter services from the Gulf route from 1st April, 1979.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To minimise the difficulties, Air-India propose to adjust their schedule with other services in such a way that the

total number of frequencies to the Gulf are maintained at the existing level. Steps are being taken by Air-India to see that additional seats to Gulf are made available by deploying three more Boeing-747 services to Gulf as against withdrawal of four Airbus nights.

Pay and allowances of L.I.C. officers

1858. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an offer was made by the Life Insurance Corporation to the Federation of Life Insurance Corporation Class I officers' Associations in April 1974 regarding revision in their pay and allowances;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said offer was accepted by the President of the Federation in August 1974; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the non-implementation of the said offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF : FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLA): (a) to (c) After the expiry of the agreement with the Federation of Class I Officers' Association in March, 1973, negotiations were held between the Management of the LIC and the Federation with a view to arrive at a new agreement of pay scale-, adjustment allowance, bonus etc., effective from 1st April 1973. No agreement was, however, reached..

Bonus to L.I.C. officers

1859. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation had offered parity in the payment of bonus between Class I Officers and Class III employees at the talks held on April 1974;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Federation of Life Insurance Corporation Class I Officers accepted the said offer through its communication in August, 1974; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the non-implementation of the said offer of parity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE 1 IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLA): (a) to 1 (c) After the expiry of the agreement with the Federation of Class, I Officers' Association in March, 1973, negotiations were held between the Management of the LIC and the Federation with a view to arrive at a new agreement of pay scales, adjustment allowance and bonus etc., effective from 1st April, 1973. No agreement was, however, reached.

**Promotion of Income-tax Officers
(Class II)**

1850. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 200 Income-tax Officers, Class-II were directly recruited on the basis of a competitive examination and selection by the UPSC sometime back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the prospects held out to them at the time of recruitment, it was mentioned that subject to passing the departmental examination and putting in certain minimum years of service, they would be considered for promotion to the posts of Class-I Income-tax Officers and that there were even chances of promotion to the cadre of Assistance Commissioners and Commissioners of Income-tax;

(c) If so, what is the number of Class-II Income-tax Officers promoted so far out of them; and

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for not giving the promised promotions to the Class-II Officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLA): (a) 192 Income-tax Officers Class II were directly recruited in 1969 and 1970 through selections made by the Union Public Service Commission.

(b) In the advertisement for recruitment, it was mentioned that selected officers will be eligible, subject to fulfilling the conditions of passing the departmental examination and completing certain minimum service, to be considered for promotion to the grade of Income-tax Officer Class I and that prospects of production to still higher posts of Assistant Commissioners and Commissioners of Income-tax also exist.

(c) None of the officers has so far been promoted.

(d) Promotion to the grade of Income-tax Officer Class I is made on the basis of selection on merit from amongst those Income-tax Officer Class II who fall in the consideration zone fixed at five times the number of vacancies to be filled, in order of seniority. The Income-tax Officers Class II directly recruited in 1969 and 1970 were not senior enough for inclusion in the zone of consideration for promotion to the grade of Income-tax Officer Class I so far. They will be considered for promotion when according to their seniority they are included in the zone of consideration.

**Leaking out of secret information from
Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory,
Neemuch**

1861. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that management of the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factory at Neemuch, M.P have allowed the foreign followers of Prajapita Brahmakumar! to visit the factory and gather secret information about the technical and production methods of the factory; and