

(b) whether it is a fact that the airfield at Port Blair is not strong and large enough to enable the Boeing to take the full load of passengers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to develop the airfield?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The capacity offered on Boeing 737 bi-weekly service between Calcutta and Port Blair is about 100 seats each way. Its average occupancy is 55-60 passengers each way.

(b) The runway load-bearing strength is not adequate for operation of Boeing 737 aircraft with full load. The use of full length of the runway and all weather bi-directional operations are not possible due to the hills in the approach of each end of the runway.

(c) The existing aerodrome can be developed only for visual uni-directional operations for Boeing-737. The comparative economics of developing the existing aerodrome and constructing a new aerodrome at an alternative site are being studied in view of the heavy investment involved in either case.

**मंत्रालय में दो भाषाओं में नाम-पट्टियां**

4. डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली में उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन सभी कार्यालयों में नाम-पट्टियां दो भाषाओं में हैं ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं तो इस प्रकार सभी नाम पट्टियों को दो भाषाओं में कब तक किया जायेगा ?

†[Bi-lingual name plates in the Ministry

4. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the offices under his Ministry located in Delhi have bilingual name plates; and

(b) if not, by when all such name-plates will be so made]

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरिफ बेग) : (क) जी नहीं । तथापि, इस मंत्रालय के अधीन दिल्ली स्थित अधिकांश कार्यालयों में नाम-पट्टियां दो भाषाओं में हैं ।

(ख) मार्च, 1978 के अन्त तक ।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) No, Sir. However, most of the offices under this Ministry located in Delhi have bilingual name-plates.

(b) By the end of March, 1978].

**Rise in price of standard gold**

5. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIB-ULLAH:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of standard gold has shot up to the highest ever level following the recent demonetisation of high denomination currency notes; and

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

†[ ] English translation.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The price of gold touched an all time high of Rs. 710 per 10 grams on January 17th following demonetisation on January 16th due to speculative demand generated by apprehensions of demonetisation of notes of other denominations. However, this spurt was shortlived and price of gold declined soon thereafter to predemonetisation levels.

भारत का इण्डियन एयर लाइन्स के विमानों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के लिये नेपाल से अनुरोध

6. श्री गुरुदेव गुप्त : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि भारत सरकार ने नेपाल सरकार से अनुरोध किया है कि वह त्रिभुवन हवाई अड्डे से इण्डियन एयर लाइन्स विमानों के अपहरण की संभावना को समाप्त करने के लिये उस हवाई अड्डे पर सुरक्षा के कड़े प्रबंध करे ?

†[India's request to Nepal for security of IA planes .

6. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have requested the Government of Nepal to ensure strict security at the Tribhuwan airport to avert the possibility of hijacking of the aircraft of the Indian Airlines from that airport?]

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री प्रखोत्तम कौशिक) : जी, नहीं। भारत सरकार ने नेपाल सरकार से इण्डियन एयरलाइन्स के विमानों के अपहरण की संभावना का निवारण करने के लिए त्रिभुवन एयरपोर्ट

पर सुरक्षा उपायों को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कोई विशिष्ट रूप से अनुरोध नहीं किया है ?

†[THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): No, Sir. The Government of India have not made any special request as such to the Government of Nepal to ensure security at Tribhuwan airport to avert the possibility of hijacking of the Indian Airlines aircraft.]

Recovery of income-tax arrears from large industrial houses

7. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 72 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th November, 1977 and state:

(a) what are the names of the large industrial houses and companies whose gross arrears of income-tax exceeded Rs. 10 lakhs;

(b) what is the number of the large industrial houses which have since paid Rs. 26.17 crores as arrears of income-tax and what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the amount still outstanding; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to recover the arrears and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) Names of the 63 concerned tax-payers are given in the statement annexed. The gross tax outstanding against these 63 tax-payers as on 31-3-77 was Rs. 26.17 crores. During the period 1-4-77 to 30-9-77 there has been a collection/reduction of Rs. 4.52 crores out of the said amount of Rs. 26.17 crores, in 33 cases belonging to 17 large industrial houses.

†[ ] English translation.