

(b) whether Government are also aware that the members of the staff who raises their voices against such irregularities are now facing suspension and/or dismissal;

(c) if so, what is the number of employees at present under the suspension and what are the grounds for their suspension; and

(d) whether Government have instituted any inquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (d) Information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Withdrawal of Loan Facilities for Economic Offenders

872. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to withdraw all facilities, like grant of loans by public financial institutions, to industrialists who commit economic offences; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) Government are seized of the question of devising measures aimed at economic offenders which would be an effective deterrent without causing any adverse economic consequences to the society. It is pre-mature to give details in this regard.

Appointments of MPs. as Directors in Public Sector undertakings

873. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have decided not to appoint Members of Parliament as Directors on the Boards of Management of the public sector undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India have decided that sitting Members of Parliament should not be appointed to the Boards of Directors of Central Government enterprises. The Member of Parliament is part of the organ of public control and is the exponent of public criticism in Parliament of the conduct and affairs of public enterprises. In these circumstances it would not be an appropriate arrangement to appoint sitting Members of Parliament on the Boards of Directors of public enterprises.

Boeing flights to Jorhat

874. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to introduce Boeing flights to Jorhat during winter has been revised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of a corporation to promote export of diamonds

875. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a corporation to promote export of diamonds; and

(b) if so, what are details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Yes.

Sir.

(b) The proposed Hindustan Diamond Co. Ltd. will have its headquarters at Bombay. Government of India will have 50 per cent equity participation in the new company and the Chairman would be always a nominee of the Government of India. The primary objectives of the company is to make available rough diamonds to small exporters against their import licences at competitive prices.

Collaboration with Japan for Developments of Buddhist Centres

876. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to collaborate with Japan for the development of Buddhist pilgrim centres in India as centres of tourist resort; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir, the Department of Tourism have not entered into any such collaboration agreement.

(b) Does not arise.

Tax Relief to creative writers and Artists

877. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to give further tax relief to creative writers and artists from the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) No, Sir. Government have not taken any such decision.

(b) Does not arise.

878. [Transferred to the 14th December, 1977].

Accounts in Foreign Countries Maintained by a Soft Drink Company

879. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of incriminating documents, allegedly revealing accounts in foreign countries maintained by a soft drink company, have been seized in the raids conducted at the premises of the company;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c) On 15-11-1977 Officers of the Directorate of Enforcement searched the premises of M/s. Bisleri (India) Private Limited, Bombay and some other connected premises as a result of which some documents have been seized. The investigations are in progress and if, as a result thereof, violations of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act are noticed, action as provided under the said Act will be taken against the persons concerned.

Expansion of the Check-in area at the Palani Airport

880. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA; SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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