

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rationalisation of Excise Duty on Tea

*425. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:
SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to rationalise excise duty on tea; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Feeder services by IA

*426. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:
SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL
Urf PIARE LALL TALIB:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has failed to meet the overall air transport requirements of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to add a few more feeder services to the existing route pattern and to connect more places of tourist attraction through air services; and

(c) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c) In order to augment the existing services provided by Indian Airlines, especially with a view to making a feeder service available, a proposal for setting up third-line operations is under examination.

Spurt in Gold Prices

*427. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
DR. V. P. DUTT:
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISO-DIA:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of gold have reached an all time high;

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

(c) what was the average price of gold in the Indian markets during each of the last three years;

(d) whether Government have been contemplating some measures to bring down the prices of gold in the market; and

(e) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The price of standard gold (per 10 grams) in the Bombay market touched an all time high of Rs. 706 on November 28, 1977.

(b) The rise in the international price of gold is attributed to—

(i) short supply of gold in the internal market in relation to demand;