

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The retirement age of Air hostess Indian Airlines and Air-India is 30 years and 35 years respectively or when she gets married whichever is earlier. Extension by one year is granted at a time upto the age of 40. The retirement age of Flight Purser in Indian Airlines and Air-India is 58 years. Air Hostesses are retired earlier than Flight Purser as their job entail a great deal of exertion and physical strain.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The terms and conditions of service of Air Hostesses is under review.

Export houses associated with MRTP groups

142. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export houses, associated with the MRTP groups, which are at present allowed to handle export business;

(b) the number of export houses out of them which concentrate only on exports of their own Companies;

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of such concentration, genuine export trade is adversely affected; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that such monopolistic tendencies in export trade are not encouraged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Permission to foreign banks to open branches in India

143. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised their policy in regard to the opening of branches in India by the foreign banks and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) what is the number of foreign banks which have asked for permission to open such branches and what are the names of the controlling shareholders of such foreign banks; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to accord any preferential treatment to foreign banks which are controlled by Asian and African shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (c) The applications of the foreign banks, including those controlled by Asian and African shareholders, are, as hitherto, considered on merit.

(b) Thirteen foreign banks with no branches in India have applied/expressed desire to apply for licence for opening branches in India for conjuring banking business. The names of these banks with particulars of their controlling shareholders, to the extent available, are set out in the statement annexed. In addition, seven foreign banks already operating in India have applied or expressed a desire to apply for opening more branches in India.