

of items of mass consumption which are in short supply with a view to maintaining price stability; and to accelerate investment in identified projects requiring imports. The level of India's foreign exchange reserves, however, has since shown an increase as the draft on foreign exchange reserves arising from larger imports was more than offset by favourable factors such as increased inflow of invisibles including remittances.

Cancellation of Indian Airlines and Air India Flights

199. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights, both of the Indian Airlines and the Air India, which were cancelled and the late arrival/departure of flights during the last three months and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that of late the incidents of cancellation late arrival/departure of IA/AI flights have been on the increase; and

■(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the services?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Loss incurred by Government Hotels due to enforcement of Prohibition

200. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hotels and restaurants in the country are losing business due to the introduction of partial prohibition; and

(b) if so, whether any study has been made about the loss in revenue incurred so far by hotels in the private and the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) It is too early yet to make an assessment in this regard.

Landing Facilities at the Bombay Airport

201. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI;
SHRIMATI USHI KHAN;
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA;

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Financial Express dated the 1st June, 1978 to the effect that the landing facilities at the Bombay Airport for international flights are on the verge of breakdown; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Government are aware of the article that appeared in the Financial Express dated the 1st June, 1978. However, the question of any breakdown of facilities at Bombay does not arise even though during peak hours there is congestion at the airport.

(b) The following steps are under consideration, to ease the congestion at Bombay;

(i) No additional landings to be permitted at Bombay airport between 2200 and 0600 hours;

(ii) Endeavour to have the existing flights rescheduled in the IATA Scheduling Committee.

(iii) A surcharge be levied on all night landings at Bombay airport; **and**

(iv) Development of Trivandrum airport to be undertaken to divert Gulf traffic to the maximum possible extent.

I.A. service between Bombay and Kolhapur

202. SHRI ARVIND GANESH

KULKARNI :

SHRI T. BASHEER;

SHRIMATI USHI KHAN;

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state **whether** there is any proposal under Government's consideration to operate an Indian Airline, service between Bombay and Kolhapur; if so, by when the service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): Indian Airlines have no proposal/plan at present to operate air services between Bombay and Kolhapur.

Export of Onions

203. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the adverse comments made by the Members of Parliament, onion growers and traders regarding ad hoc methods adopted by the NAFED in the purchase of onion for export;

(b) whether Government have taken any action on the complaints of the growers about the abnormal fall **in** prices of cash crop and vegetables due to ad hoc policies of Government to ban exports; and

(c) if *so*, what steps Government propose to take to **help** the growers to get better prices?

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

(b) and (c) Government have allowed export of onions through NAFED without any quantitative restrictions. Support price measures are in operation in respect of oil seeds like groundnut, mustard, soya bean and sun-flower seed. Under directions, from the Central Government, NAFED made large scale purchases of onions since December, 1977. Instructions have been issued for procurement on Government account of 10,000 tonnes of Virginia Tobacco through STC and TISCO tonnes faw-Virginia tonnes-through NAFED to provide relief to the growers. Agricultural Prices Commission have been asked to recommend remunerative prices *oi* onions and potatoes.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. Mr. H. M. Patel.

Annual Report (1977) on the Working of the Deposit Insurance Corporation, Bombay and Related Papers.

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THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): Sir, I be_g to lay on the Table, under snb-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 1961, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Sixteenth Annual Report on the working of the Deposit Insurance Corporation, Bombay, for the year, ended the 1st December, 1977, together with the audited Accounts. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-2200/78].

श्री बुद्ध प्रिय मौर्य : श्रीमान, व्यवस्था

का प्रश्न आपके ऊपर ही है ।