

to the companies belonging to the Mafatlal Group at present pending for settlement; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to settle these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQARULLAH): (a) As on 31-3-78, gross demand of income-tax amounting to Rs. 23.81 lakhs with corresponding "net arrears" of Rs. 2.3 lakhs were outstanding against six companies belonging to Mafatlal Group.

(b) Dependig upon the facts and circumstances of each case, various steps provided under the Income-tax Act are being taken to recover these arrears.

'Gross demand' at any point of time represents the amount of tax demand raised on regular assessment and not paid till then. 'Net arrears' represent, by and large, the legally collectable demands at any point of time and are computed by deducting the following types of amounts from the amount of gross arrears: —

(i) Amounts not fallen due.

(ii) Pre-paid taxes (by way of advance tax, self assessment tax or tax deducted at source) claimed to have been paid but which are awaiting verification!adjustment.

(iii) Amounts in respect of which stay has been granted by various authorities including courts.

(iv) Amounts covered by instalments granted.

Selection of Air Hostesses

647. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an embargo on the selection of Air-hostesses from a particular community; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Air India Flights

648. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH DWIVEDI;

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS; THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a recent sample opinion at London's Heathrow Airport has shown that Air India's popularity has gone down and the airline has been facing criticism for delayed flights?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): Recently there have been reports in the local newspapers about growing criticism of Air-India in London for delayed flights at Heathrow airport. Most of the news items have exaggerated the situation caused due to delays. It is the constant endeavour of Air-India to reduce delays to the maximum extent but in the specific instances of delays referred to at London, they were mostly due to bad weather and industrial action by Air Controllers at Continental Europe^{an} U.K.

Shortage in stocks of MMTC

649. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY A:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of shortage in respect of fertilizers, sulphur and metals detected by MMTC on verification of stocks as on the 31st December, 1976, 31st December, 1977 and 30th June, 1978, item-wise;

(b) whether Government have fixed responsibility for these shortages; and

(c) what steps Government have-taken to avoid such losses in future?