

Financial Assistance to India by British Government

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

(a) whether British Government have agreed to provide any financial assistance to India as a result of the talks with Mrs. Judith Hart, the British Minister for Overseas Development, during her recent visit to India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The main purpose of the talks with Mrs. Judith Hart, the British Minister for Overseas Development, during her recent visit to India, was to discuss ways and means by which British aid provided to India from year to year is efficiently and fully used in keeping with the development priorities of the Indian Government. While in India, Mrs. Hart formally announced the amount committed by the Government of United Kingdom as British assistance to India for the year 1977-78, viz. £144 million (approximately Rs. 260 crores). No commitments were expected or made for the subsequent years.

(b) The details of the provision of British aid to India for the year 1977-78 as announced by the British Minister for Overseas Development are as under:—

(i) Maintenance Grant	£ 70 million (Rs. 105 crores)†
(ii) Mixed Project Grant	£ 30 million (Rs. 45 crores)†
(iii) Capital Investment Grant	£ 20 million (Rs. 30 crores)†
(iv) Sectoral Grant	£ 20 million (Rs. 30 crores)†
(v) Debt Refinancing Grant	£ 4 million (Rs. 6 crores)†

† Rs. figures approximate.

Shri Kantilal Desai's visit to London

382. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL;
SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ;
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Shri Kantilal Desai son of the Prime Minister, who accompanied the Prime Minister during his visit to London by an Air India flight was issued a one way concessional charter ticket and no extra charge was made for the Amsterdam London sector; if so, whether rules provide for such a concession?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): Shri Kantilal Desai was issued a ticket for travel from Delhi to Amsterdam on a flight of Air India Charters Ltd. He paid the full fare and no question of any concession arises. Since this flight was going to Amsterdam via London no extra charge or concession was involved in his getting off before his destination point.

Central Government Accounting Organisation

383. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the work relating to accounting of Central Government transactions has been taken away from the Office of the AG.C.R. and A.G.C.W.M., both the posts of Accountants-General still continue to exist and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is the nature of responsibilities shouldered by the Sr. Admn. Grade Officers in the Accounting Organisations?