

for bad and doubtful debts out of their annual profits. Upto the accounting year ending June 30, 1976 the IDBI has made a provision of Rs. 2.10 crores and the IFCI has made a provision of Rs. 4.09 crores. It is the practice of public financial institutions not to write off doubtful debts unless all steps for recovery have been taken and exhausted. Measures like change of management, appointment of nominee directors on the board of assisted concerns, strengthening of the organisational set up are taken by the financial institutions to minimise their business risk in the assisted concerns.

Share of States in earnings from the sale of confiscated goods

630. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAM-CHANDRA MHAISEKAR : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give a part of the earnings made from confiscated goods to the concerned State Governments for the assistance rendered by them in the seizure of smuggled goods ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Introduction of instant tea in foreign market

631. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY :

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA-GOHAIN :

SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHE-TTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to introduce Indian instant tea in foreign markets ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) Promotion of special packs of Indian tea, including instant tea, in selected markets abroad is carried out by the Tea Board with the cooperation of the local blenders/packers. While Tea Board has entered into collaboration with one established packer each in U.S.A. and Australia for promotion of instant tea manufactured in India, negotiations are in progress with other local packers in U.S.A., Australia and Austria.

Closed Textile Mills

632. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some more closed textile mills have been taken over by the National Textile Corporation in July, 1976 ;

(b) if so, what are the names of those mills ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to provide employment to the workers of the mills which have been closed down ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) The management of Laxmirattan Cotton Mills Company Limited, Kanpur and Atherton West and Company Limited, Kanpur has been taken over by the Central Government under the provisions of the Laxmirattan and Atherton West Cotton Mills (Taking over of Management) Ordinance, 1976 which was promulgated on 19th July, 1976. The National Textile Corporation has been appointed as Custodian of these two mills.

(c) Steps have already been initiated to re-start Laxmirattan and Atherton West Cotton Mills and some workers have already been employed. More and more workers will be employed as different sections in the mills are put into commission.

Alleged pay-offs for Boeing sales to Air-India

633. SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING :

SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express of June 17, 1976 under the caption "Pay-offs for Boeing Sales to Air India"; and

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been instituted in this regard; and if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On enquiry it was found that Air-India purchased aircraft directly from the Boeing Company and not through any intermediary. "General" Maneckji who was alleged to have been given commission for sale of aircraft to Air-India was an employee of PILLMAN AIRCRAFT COMPANY, who were Boeing's consultants in India. However, Air-India had no dealings with the firm of consultants.

Expenditure incurred on Search for hidden treasure at Jaigarh Fort in Jaipur

634. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 10 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1976 and state :

(a) what expenditure has been incurred so far by Government in conducting the search for hidden treasure at Jaigarh Fort in Jaipur ;

(b) whether the family of the former Maharaja of Jaipur is also sharing the expenditure on this account; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The search for the reported hidden treasure at Jaigarh Fort is continuing in association with various Departments/Organisations, which are presently incurring the expenditure from their own departmental resources. These Departments/Organisations are likely to furnish information regarding expenditure incurred by them only at the close of the operations. It is thus not possible to state at this stage the total expenditure incurred so far by the Government.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the agreement entered into by the Government of India with Shri Bhawani Singh, the expenditure regarding the search for the hidden treasure is to be borne by the Government of India.

International Airport at Paradip

635. SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an international airport at Paradip in view of the growing importance of the port ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : There is no proposal under consideration to construct an airport at Paradip. The nearest aerodrome to handle air traffic of Paradip is at Bhubaneswar which is only about 51 miles away.