

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) The whole matter relating to the purchase of aircraft by the Corporation is under Government's active consideration. Details of financing arrangements for the purchase of new aircraft have yet to be finalised.

Survey of Indian market by Diamond Trading Company London

61. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether representatives of Diamond Trading Company of London recently visited India to survey the market; and

(b) if so, whether they negotiated any deals with State trading agencies and the outcome of their visit ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b) Representatives of the Diamond Trading Company were in India recently on one of their periodical visits. They did not negotiate any deal as such with any State Trading Agency.

Suspension of a member of the subordinate Staff of Zaheerabad branch (Andhra Pradesh) of Central Bank of India

62. SHRI S. G. ANGRE :

SHRI BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Divisional Manager of Central Bank of India was asked to suspend a member of the subordinate staff of Zaheerabad Branch (Andhra Pradesh) for having been found guilty of forgery of a cheque;

(b) whether it is a fact that the suspension orders could not be implemented because of pressure from All India Bank Employees Association; and

(c) what are the full facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Divisional Manager without suspending the employee, furnished the explanation of the employee to the Central Office. The employee while admitting his guilt in the explanation, asked for sympathy and also expressed his willingness to accept any punishment short of termination of services in view of his young age and assured good behaviour in future. On the recommendation of the Divisional Manager for sympathetic consideration, the bank awarded the punishment of stoppage of two increments to the employee concerned with a severe warning for good behaviour in future.

Disciplinary proceedings against individual employees are fully within the domain of internal administration of the bank and Government do not come into the picture.

Decision on Rupee-Roubie Exchange rate

63. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to, state :

(a) whether Government have since negotiated any decision about the Rupee-Rouble exchange rate for non-commercial transaction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAH MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Discussions with an official team from the USSR were held in New Delhi in March*

April 1975 regarding the Rupee-Rouble exchange rate for both commercial and non-commercial transactions. These talks took place in a cordial atmosphere and facilitated better understanding of each other's views on the issues involved. It is hoped that a mutually satisfactory solution would be reached in the next round of talks which are proposed to be held soon.

Additional D. A. to Central Government employees

64. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision on the formula for the grant of additional D.A. to Central Government employees;

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

(c) if no decision has been taken, what are the reasons for the delay and by when a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (c) Presumably the reference is to the review of the D.A. scheme beyond the 12-monthly index level of 272 in accordance with the Third Pay Commission's recommendation. If so, this review is being made in consultation with the Staff representatives, and a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

Disposal of Confiscated Goods

65. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the decision Government have taken in regard to the disposal of huge quantity of confiscated watches, synthetic fabrics, cameras, tape recorders, cosmetics and other luxury consumer goods that have piled up as a result of the recent anti-smuggling measures;

(b) whether it is fact that HMT has refused to guarantee for the working of the confiscated watches; and

(c) whether the consumer cooperatives have been receiving the confiscated goods and if so, the details of the allotments made to them during the last six months and the criteria governing such allotments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The procedure for disposal of confiscated goods has recently been streamlined to expedite disposal. Confiscated smuggled goods are sold to consumers through Cooperative Societies and Canteens run by Central and State Agencies and also by public auction restricted to actual users and quota-holders.

(b) An effort was recently made by the Government to make confiscated watches available to Hindustan Machine Tools Limited for check and resale/export with guarantee, but they have not found the proposal feasible.

(c) The arrangement is that all consumer goods which become ripe for disposal are to be lifted by the National Consumers Cooperative Federation or by the Canteen Stores Department (India) and other specified Government Canteens/Cooperative Stores. The Goods are sold to these organisations on the basis of first come first served. As such, the question of allotment does not arise.

Foreign Currency Racketeers

66. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN : SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN : SHRI M. KADERSHAH :

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