

table of the House. [See Appendix XC. Annexure No. 17]

**Financial Assistance to an Injured
Customs Officer**

*175. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri M. M. Sheth, Customs Officer, who was seriously injured by smugglers in a village near Vapi-Daman border in Gujarat, in the month of June, 1974, has not been given any financial help so far ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in extending financial assistance to the Officer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 5,000 has been sanctioned to Shri Sheth on the 4th October, 1974, for meeting his medical expenses. However, due to a discrepancy in the initials of his name indicated in the sanction, the amount could not be drawn. This has since been corrected and the Collector is taking steps to make expeditious payment.

Tourist Traffic from Middle East

*176. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN .
SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :
SHRI MOHAMMAD USMAN ARIF :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that no special efforts have been made to attract tourist traffic to India from the Middle East countries ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no Tourist Officers have been established by the

Department of Tourism, in cities like Cairo and Baghdad from where enormous tourist traffic emanates ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no tourist literature in Arabic language has been prepared and printed for distribution in the Middle East countries ; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons there for and the steps Government have taken or propose to take to attract tourists from this region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The Deptt. of Tourism has been carrying out its normal promotional activities in Middle Eastern countries through Indian Missions and Air India Offices keeping in view the potential of tourist traffic from each country.

(b) No tourist offices were opened in cities like Cairo and Baghdad as tourist traffic to India from these countries was negligible.

(c) and (d) The potential from Middle East has now improved due to increased affluence in some of the countries of the region. The Department of Tourism, has, therefore, a proposal to open shortly a tourist office in Kuwait. This office will service the neighbouring Arab countries. Simultaneously, the Department has undertaken the production of tourist literature/films in Arabic language.

Flights to Gorakhpur

*177. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start scheduled flights to Gorakhpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) : Indian Airlines have

no plans at present to start air services to Gorakhpur.

Searches at the premises of Chairman and Directors of the Bird Group of Companies for tax evasion

*178. SHRI NIRESH GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the premises of the Chairman and two Directors of the Bird group of companies were searched in Calcutta a few months back for evasion of income-tax; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been taken against them for concealment of income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The premises of one of the Directors of the Bird-Heilger group of companies were searched in July, 1974 by the Income-tax authorities at Calcutta.

(a) As a result of the search, assets of value of Rs. 1,39,925 were seized. An order under section 132(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 estimating the undisclosed income in summary manner at Rs. 1,40,000 and determining tax thereon at Rs. 84,346 has since been passed.

Loan from World Bank

*179 SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI RAJNARAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans likely to be received by Government from the World Bank for the year ending June, 1975; and

(b) the projects for which these are proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) Negotiations have been concluded with the World Bank for a loan of about Rs. 81.2 crores (\$ 109 million) to be provided to the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. on the guarantee of the Government of India, for meeting the foreign exchange costs of the fertilizer plant being set up at Phulpur.

2. In addition, India receives soft credits from International Development Association (an affiliate of the World Bank). The amount of such credits received in the year ending June 1974 was \$390 million; in the year ending June 1975, we expect to receive a larger amount than this. These credits are used for projects for agricultural and industrial development, transport, power transmission and urban development.

Under-invoicing of Shrimps Exported by Union Carbide.

*180. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints against Union Carbide (India) Ltd., alleging, inter alia, that the export of shrimps by them was being under-invoiced resulting in loss of foreign exchange to the country; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A complaint regarding the alleged under-invoicing of shrimps exported by M/s. Union Carbide (India) Ltd., resulting in loss of foreign exchange to the country was received.

(b) In one case of export of shrimps to Japan by M/s. Union Carbide through the Custom House at Visakhapatnam, the export price for certain grades of shrimps was suspected to be lower than the price