

Goods seized and confiscated at Delhi Airport

268. SHRI AWADESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

The value of goods which were seized and confiscated at the Delhi airport during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The value of goods seized at Delhi airport during the last six months (from May to October 1974) is Rs. 6,03,712. Out of the above, goods of the value of Rs. 43,774 were confiscated as a result of Departmental adjudications. In some cases fines in lieu of confiscation have been imposed.

Remittances in Foreign Exchange by Indians Settled abroad

269. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(u) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for asking the Indians settled abroad to remit their savings compulsorily in foreign exchange; and

(bi if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tourists to Eastern India

270. SHRI SCATO SWU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inadequate tourist facilities and lack of publicity tourists are not attracted to visit Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal, Tripura and Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to attract more tourists to this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Due mainly to the restriction on the entry of foreigners into the easternmost States, international tourism has not developed as rapidly as in other regions. Within the limitations of resources, however, tourism schemes were taken up at selected centres in this region in the Central Sector. These included assistance in setting up of a Tourist Bureau at Gauhati, provision of accommodation at Gauhati and Shillong, and electrification of the Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary in the earlier Plan periods. In the Fourth Plan the construction of a Tourist Bungalow at Gauhati and a Forest Lodge at Kaziranga were taken up. These are nearing completion. Places of tourist interest in the easternmost States are adequately covered in the tourist literature brought out by the Department of Tourism.

Imphal Airport

271. SHRI SCATO SWU:

SHRI IRENGBAM TOMPOK SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers at Imphal airport are exposed to rain and the sun and proper civic amenities are totally absent as there is no terminal building;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for construction of a terminal building at the airport; if so, by when the construction will start and the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) It is true that passenger facilities at present are not adequate at TuJihal (Imphal) aerodrome. Government have accorded sanction in August, 1974, for construction of a new terminal building at a cost of about Rs. 7.80 lakhs. The Central Public Works Department have

been asked to take up the work and complete it on a priority basis.

Exchange rate of Russian Rouble

272. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th August, 1974 and state :

(a) whether Government have since sought clarifications from the USSR authorities regarding exchange rates of rouble vis-a-vis Indian rupee and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the present exchange rate between the Russian rouble and the Indian rupee ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the discussions with the USSR authorities are still continuing.

(b) The present rate of exchange between the Rouble and the Indian Rupee, as declared by the USSR State Bank on September 1, 1974 is Rs. 100 = Roubles 9.47.

Freight equalisation for cotton

273. SHRI SAN AT KUMAR RAH A : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal under consideration to evolve a scheme of freight equalisation in case of cotton, on the pattern of steel, so that cotton product may be sold at the same price all over the country :

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): The matter is under consideration of the Government in the context of general policy involved.

Conversion of temporary posts of Hindi Investigators into permanent posts

274. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD

MATHUR: SHRI

SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state,:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Investigators in his Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that in March 1974, the Ministry asked the Ministries to convert 80 per cent of such temporary posts into permanent ones;

(c) whether these instructions have been implemented ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and by when those instructions are likely to be carried out ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) 12 posts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Of the 12 posts, 8 have been made permanent. Because the organisational set up in the Directorate of Exhibitions and Commercial Publicity was under and was likely to undergo a change, it is not on that side could be made permanent when the position was last reviewed during August 1974. The position will be reviewed again during the next financial year.

Overtime Allowance to Central Government Employees

275. SHRI BEZAWADA PAPI-REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state,

(a) whether it is a fact that the overtime allowance payable to Central Government employees in every month is res-