

partly, in public interest, in respect of essential goods like fertilizers, tyres and tubes, patent or proprietary medicines, cement, vanaspati, sugar, baby food, milk powder, butter, metal containers for essential goods, some categories of diesel engines etc. Such relaxations were also permitted in respect of supplies of all kinds of excisable goods required for Defence purposes or for further production in other factories and in cases where representations were made on grounds like curtailment or stoppage of production, lack of storage space, etc.

(c) Government has not received any information or complaints regarding hoarding of goods by the trading community consequent on grant of these relaxations.

Proposal to link prices of raw materials and finished goods

922. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing an index of prices of raw materials and prices of finished goods and working out a link between the two; and

(b) if so, what is the relationship between the cotton prices and the finished goods prices and what will be the fair price for cotton?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI V. P. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rupee Trade between India and Bangladesh

923. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have decided to scrap the rupee trade and payment agreement between them and shift to convertible currency trade; and

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI V. P. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details and objectives are contained in the Protocol concluded between the two countries on 17-12-1974, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Parliament.

Meals for airlines staff in the canteen of Airlines House, Madras

924. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

SHRI VISHWANATHA MENON:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines authorities at Madras have recently stopped arrangements for meals in the canteen of Airlines House, Madras; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this has put the Indian Airlines staff, who have been taking meals from the Canteen to considerable difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Punishment to Airlines staff for participation in strikes

925 DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

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

(a) the number of employees and officers of Indian Airlines and Air India who

have been victimized during the last two years for participation in agitations and strikes; and

(b) the break-up figures for Indian Airlines and Air India, giving the details of dismissals, suspensions, punishment and transfers?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to Curb Black Money

926. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestions for introduction of a 'Bearer Bond Scheme' and 'Swiss type Bank Accounts' for channelising black money; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee examined the suggestions for introduction by the Government of 'bearer bonds' and 'Swiss type bank accounts' for channelising black money. The Committee was of the view that acceptance of these suggestions would mean giving concessions to tax evaders. According to the Committee, any such scheme would only shake the confidence of the honest tax-payers in the capacity of the Government to deal with law breakers.

(b) The Government is in agreement with the views of the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee.

Foreign Travel Tax

927. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount deposited by the International Airlines out

of Foreign Travel Tax has remained unutilised;

(b) if so, the total amount collected during the years 1972, 1973 and 1974 and the amount which remained unutilised during the same period; and

(c) the reasons for the non-utilisation of the amount and the steps taken by Government to refund the unutilised amount to the concerned airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Collections in respect of Foreign Travel Tax are as under :

	(Rs in crores)
1971-72	1.59
1972-73	5.35
1973-74	4.98
1974-75	5.58
(upto January, 1975)	

Out of the above collections claims involving a refund of Rs. 40.57 lakhs have been filed by the carriers upto the end of January, 1975.

(c) The claims for refunds could not be settled in view of the carriers' reluctance or inability to produce cancelled or unutilised tickets. After undertaking a special study the basic documents on the strength of which these refund claims could be processed have since been finalised. Some legal difficulties for determining the relevant date with reference to which statutory time limit of six months for filing the claims has to be computed has also been raised. These are being sorted out in consultation with the Ministry of Law. In the mean time instructions have been issued that claims for refund which were filed within the period of six months from the date of issue of the ticket should be finalised immediately.