

assisting the leather industry including footwear for export purposes.

(3) A standing list of machinery required interalia for manufacture of leather footwear has been drawn up import of which will be allowed against import replenishment licences and capital goods licences.

(4) Air freight subsidy scheme on export of leather footwear has been extended upto 30th September, 1974.

Tourists to India during March, 1974

*192. SHRI SAW USING H SISODIA :

SHRI MAHHNDRA BAHADUR SINGH :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :

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

(a) whether there has been any increase in the number of tourists to India during the period January-March, 1974 ;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of increase and the total amount of foreign exchange earned thereby ; and

(c) what are the names of the countries from which the maximum number of tourists visited India during the above period ?

Till MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. (SMT.) SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). Tourist arrivals during the period January-February, 1974 for which figures are available, recorded a marginal decline of 2.0 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1973. The foreign exchange earnings from tourism are computed on an annual basis. However, the foreign exchange earned during the first two months of 1974 are expected to be of the order of Rs. 12 crores.

(c) The countries from where maximum number of tourists visited India during the

period January-February, 1974 were the United Kingdom, the United States of America, West Germany, Sri Lanka, France, Japan and Malaysia.

Forward Markets Commission

*93. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any changes are proposed to be made by Government in the functions of the Forward Markets Commission ; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :

(a) No, Sir. Government do not have any such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Airlines employees under suspension and on forced leave

*194. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHANKAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of Indian Airlines who were (i) placed under suspension and (ii) directed to go on forced leave due to lock-out in the Indian Airlines ; and

(b) what is the number of employees who are still under suspension and those who are still on compulsory leave ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b). (i) None was

placed under suspension during lock-out. However, three employees who were suspended before the lock-out still continue to be under suspension, (ii) During the period of curtailed services, the employees of the Corporation were encouraged to avail of the privilege leave due to them as it was then possible to grant them leave without any dislocation of work. The number of employees who availed of the privilege leave is being collected from the various stations.

Economy in Government expenditure

*195. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUN DAW AT :

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR
SINGH :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

WILL the Minister of FINANCE
be
pleased to state :

(a) whether any economy in Government expenditure has been effected during the period January-March, 1974; and

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines thereof including the amount saved under head of expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.
GANESH) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid
on the Table of the House.

Statement

I. In order to control inflationary pressures in the economy, a series of steps were introduced last year to effect economies in the budgets of different Ministries/Departments with a view to reducing the extent of deficit financing. In addition to economy measures already in force, further economies introduced in the non-Plan expenditure of Government were :

Economy in contingencies and travelling allowances ; deferment of construction of non-functional buildings which have not proceeded beyond the plinth

leyei ; deferment of annual repairs and maintenance of Government buildings except a few prestigious buildings ; ban on creation of new posts which have remained vacant for more than six months; deferment of rotational transfer of officers in various branches of Government to save on transfer allowances; savings in petrol consumption by departmental vehicles and on telephone calls; economies in expenditure on entertainment and foreign travel: economy in expenses involved in holding of conferences; seminars and meetings; keeping to a minimum invitations for holding international gatherings; directing the public sector undertakings to minimise their cash losses by generating more internal resources through efficient functioning etc.

2. In addition, it was found necessary to effect economies in Plan expenditure as well. This was done in such a manner that progress of key projects and programmes which are essential and are in advanced stage of completion was not affected while projects and schemes which are not essential and will require a relatively long period to mature were slowed down. A saving of Rs. 100. crores was also proposed in Central assistance to State Plans.

3. It was expected that there would be an aggregate of saving of about Rs. 400 crores as a result of these measures. These economy measures have been implemented, by and large, by the different Ministries/Departments. Implementation of savings has been a continuing process since the introduction of economy measures in August 1973. These savings relate to the total budget provisions of different Ministries /Departments for the whole of 1973-74. It is not possible to indicate separately how much of these savings relate to the period January-March 1974. The assessment of savings made in 1973-74 in the different Ministries/Departments is given in the Annexure to this Statement. [See below] These savings were, however, effected to meet partially additional liabilities