

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) No direct recruitment has been made to any Class IV post by the Head office of the International Airports Authority of India. Recruitment to Class III posts also is generally made locally. However, in respect of certain newly created cadres which are common to the Head Office and the four international airports, direct recruitment is being made by the Head Office in the interest of uniform standards of efficiency and suitability.

Opening of Accounts in Indian Banks by Indians living abroad

*9. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH: SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to allow persons of Indian origin living abroad, to open accounts in banks in India in foreign exchange; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI V. B. CMAVAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Evasion of Sales-tax

*10. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SRE-ENIVASA RAO.
SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Finance Secretaries of States and Commissioners of Sales Tax of the Union Territories was held in January 1974;

(b) if so, what are their recommendations made for checking evasion of sales tax; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. A joint meeting of the four Regional Councils for Sales-tax set up under Article 263 of the Constitution was held on 1st and 2nd January, 1974.

(b) and (c) It was noted at the above meeting that the question regarding setting up of check posts with a view to check inter-state transactions and other incidental matters connected therewith is being examined by the Law Commission; the following recommendations were also made with a view to curb evasion of sales tax:—

(i) There should be proper exchange of information between officers of the Sales-tax Department and the Central Government tax agencies; for this purpose the State sales-tax authorities should be represented on the zonal co-ordination Committees that have been set up. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has been requested to take suitable action in this regard.

(ii) A Committee of officers of the Railway Administration, Finance Ministry and some of the State Governments should examine how maximum co-ordination could be achieved between the Railway authorities and the sales-tax authorities to enable the latter to realise their tax dues; steps are being taken to set up such a Committee.

(iii) As far as possible there should be a common approach amongst States in regard to levy of sales-tax and the tax difference should not be more than 2% or 1% depending upon the commodities taxed at the higher rates of tax and lower rates of tax respectively. The Central Government should try to draw in consultation with the Planning Commission list of commodities which might be considered by the State Governments for having a uniform rate subject to the marginal differential referred to above which is under consideration.

Decline in profits 2 Nationalised Banks

*11. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

SHRI K. C. PANDA:

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total profits of nationalised banks at the end of 1973;

(b) whether profitability of the nationalised banks has fallen considerably during the last year; and

(c) if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor?