

UNDER-CUTTING OF AIR FARES

444. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the practice of under-cutting of air fares by international airlines is rampant, to the detriment of Air India ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of Government during the last two years ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government with the help of IATA or otherwise to effectively prevent this unhealthy practice?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b) It is believed that certain international airlines indulge in malpractices such as undercutting the IATA approved fares which result in the diversion of traffic from the national carrier.

(c) The following measures have been taken to deal with the situation :

(i) Reduced return excursion fares have been introduced between the USA and India.

(ii) Reduced return youth fares have been introduced between India and France.

(iii) A charter company has been established by Air India for operation of charters at cheap fares.

(iv) A new rule has been incorporated in the Aircraft Rules, whereby it is compulsory for airlines to file their tariffs with the Director Genral of Civil Aviation for approval.

Apart from the above measures, a close watch is being maintained by the International Air Transport Association enforcement organisation as well as by our own governmental authorities concerned with the infringement of the foreign exchange regulations.

TAKE OVER OF SICK TEA ESTATES BY WORKERS' COOPERATIVES

445. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: SHRI

KALYAN ROY : SHRI

SHYAMLAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken by Government to encourage the workers' co-operative societies to take over sick tea estate ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) the number of sick and closed tea plantation in West Bengal or any other State; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to take them over?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Task Force recently set up for evolving a viable and long-term strategy for the growth of tea industry and promotion of exports will *inter-alia* study the problem of closed and sick gardens and make recommendation for effective remedial action.

PURCHASE OF PLANES FOR INDIAN AIRLINES

446. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA:

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER;

SHRI G. R. PATIL:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: SHRI M. K. MOHTA: SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI SUNDER MANI PATEL: SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether Government propose to replace the fleet of Caravelle and Viscount aircrafts of the Indian Airlines ;

(b) whether the Indian Airlines Corporation has invited quotations from aircraft manufacturers all over the world;

(c) whether a Russian team visited India recently for the sale of their TU-154 aircraft ; and

(d) whether Government have taken any decision as to the type of planes proposed to be purchased for augmenting the fleet of Indian Airlines; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):

(a) to (d) Indian Airlines are planning to phase out their Caravelle and Viscount aircraft and are examining the data received from various aircraft manufacturers. Soviet teams have visited New Delhi recently and discussed the operational and technical aspects of their TU-154 and Yak-40 aircraft with Indian Airlines. The fleet planning studies of Indian Airlines are still in progress, and their proposals are expected next month.

RAIDS BY INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT

447. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Income-tax Department in 1972-73 to unearth concealed income; and

(b) the amount of concealed income thus unearthed and the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) 532.

(b) The value of assets seized in these searches is Rs. 454 lakhs. Under the law, in such cases, summary orders are to be passed by the Income-tax Officers concerned, within 90 days of the seizure, estimating the concealed income and retaining the seized assets towards the estimated tax liability as also any outstanding tax dues. Such action has been or is being taken in all the above cases. Further investigations are being continued and necessary action from the assessment, penalty, and prosecution angles will be taken as called for under the law.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

448. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of recurring grant given by Government to the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government exercise any administrative control over the affairs of the Institute; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that some IAS Officers are misusing the forum of the Institute for personal benefits, and if so, the steps taken to prevent this abuse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) The amount of recurring maintenance grant given to the Indian Institute of Public Administration since 1971-72 is Rs. 9.5 lakhs per annum. In addition, the Institute is also given specific purposes grants for their schemes as and when necessary, from various Ministries/Departments of Government of India.