

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) A request for financial assistance for the development of the Nilgiri Hill area was received from the State Government. In view of the entire Central funds for tourism available in the Fourth Plan having been fully committed, the inability of the Government to take up new projects was conveyed to the State Government.

FIVE STAR HOTEL IN MADRAS

944. SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Tourism Development Corporation has abandoned its proposal to build a 5 Star Hotel in Madras; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Plans for the construction of hotels by the India Tourism Development Corporation during the Fifth Year Plan are under consideration.

OPERATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES THROUGH MADRAS

945. SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit International Airlines like PANAM, ALITALIA, Japan Air Lines TWA to operate their flights through Madras to South East Asia and Australia; and

(b) if so, when the scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Operation of scheduled services by foreign airlines through India is governed by the provisions of bilateral air services agreements or arrangements with their respective governments when each request for points in India is consideration on merits. None of the

airlines mentioned has rights of operation to|through Madras.

APPROVED FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNTS OF INDIVIDUALS ABROAD

946. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI M. K. MOHTA:
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI SUNDARMANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the approved foreign currency accounts of individuals abroad as on 1st January, 1973; and

(b) whether Government receive regular reports from the individuals concerned about their assets in their accounts abroad?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India is compiling the required data and it may take some more time to complete the work. Information will be laid on the Table of the House as and when ready.

(b) Returns showing balances in the foreign currency accounts are being received periodically by the Reserve Bank of India.

SMUGGLING OF MICA

947. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 11th December, 1972 regarding large scale smuggling of high quality mica resulting in an annual loss to the country to the tune of Rs. 2.5 crores, and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such large scale smuggling of mica out of the country?