

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Is that the answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not completed the answer.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: Not only share the concern but also the profits.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR: The concern is about 577 people owing more than Rs. 10 lakhs each. When the Finance Minister always comes forward for budgetary provision why should they be allowed to remain so for 20 years? Should we take that the Government is helpless and they cannot realise the amounts? There should be some discussion, some avenue. Let the country at least know what is the state of affairs of our economy today.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: That is why we have given a list of 577 persons so that the names of those who are in arrears should be known to the country.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is it going to satisfy everybody?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, because the question could not be discussed during question hour, may I suggest that there should be a discussion on this issue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give me notice. We will see if we have time.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INCREASE IN AIR FARES

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

(a) whether it is a fact that air fares have recently been increased by the Indian Airlines, if so the extent of increase on different trunk routes and service routes (region-wise);

(b) what are the reasons for such increase; and

(c) what is the estimated additional revenue expected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) With effect from 1st April, 1973 Indian Airlines have, with the approval of the Central Government, increased passenger fares by 5 per cent with marginal adjustments.

(b) This was necessitated by a substantial increase in various components of their costs.

(c) Rs. 3 crores per annum approximately.

MEETING OF EEC COUNTRIES IN BRUSSELS

*299. SHRI K. C. PANDA:
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT;
SHRI M. K. MOHTA:
SHRI DAHYABHAI V.
PATEL;
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the nine European Common Market countries was recently held in Brussels to consider the terms of the agreement with India;

(b) whether the member-countries failed to agree amongst themselves to settle these terms; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) to (c) The Commission of European Communities has now formally opened negotiations with us for a trade agreement. The terms of the agreement are still under negotiations.