

Result of searches & seizures:

Financial year	No. of searches carried out	Value of assets seized (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of infructuous searches
1967-68	109	90	3
1968-69	81	59	2
1969-70	170	95	1
1970-71	195	140	3
1971-72	516	243	5
1972-73	469	384	8
(upto 31-1-1973)			

PURCHASE OF PLANES BY INDIAN AIRLINES

*313. SHRI KALYAN ROY:

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned, "More Planes for Indian Airlines" published in the 'Economic Times' on December, 25, 1972;

(b) if so, the number of planes, Indian Airlines propose to buy and from which sources; and

(c) whether more planes are to be utilised for its trunk routes on a chartered basis and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines are still examining their fleet requirements.

DEMAND OF U. P. COTTON TEXTILE MILL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

*314. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a demand has been made by the U.P. Cotton Textile

Mill Owners' Association for declaring cotton textile industry a priority industry for purposes of taxation and for giving it liberal concessions;

(b) if so, what are the details of the demand; and

(c) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) The Chairman of the U. P. Cotton Textile Mill Owners' Association at the Fifth Annual meeting of the Association held in January 1973, made the suggestion that the cotton textile industry should be declared as a priority industry for the purpose of taxation and other concessions. No formal detailed proposals have, however, been made to the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

LOSSES SUFFERED BY AIR INDIA

*315. SHRI K. B. CHETRI:

SHRI GANESHILAL CHAUDHARY: SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI J. P. YADAV:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is likely to incur more losses this year than in the previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures Government have adopted to check the losses?

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

(a) Against an estimated loss of Rs. 3.26 crores when the Budget Estimates were prepared, the loss for 1972-73 is likely to be Rs. 2.92 crores according to the Revised Estimates. The net loss for the year 1971-72 was Rs. 1.66 crores.

(b) the reasons broadly are increased depreciation provisions, insurance premium and interest on loans on three Boeing-747 aircraft during 1972-73 as against one Boeing-747 during 1971-72.

(c) Air-India has taken a number of measures to effect economy in expenditure including a freeze on new recruitment except where absolutely necessary, curtailment of certain services and conversion of some on-line offices to off-line offices, abolition of free ground transport to passengers and very strict control over administrative and publicity expenditure.

U.S. TRADE TEAM

*316. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a US trade team is likely to visit India in April this year;

(b) if so, what specific proposals are intended to be discussed with that team; and
3 RSS/73—3.

(c) how the trade between India and USA during 1972-73 is likely to compare with that during 1971-72?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

With reference to parts (a) and (b) of the Question, it may be stated that it was reported in the publication called "Commerce Today" of the US Department of Commerce dated the 8th January, 1973, that a Railway equipment Trade Mission sponsored by the Department of Commerce of USA is expected to visit India during April 1973 to promote sale of US equipment for the Indian Railways. Nothing further in this regard has, however, been heard.

Exports from India to the USA during the period April—August, 1972 amounted to Rs. 119.95 crores, as compared with Rs. 116 crores during April—August, 1971.

Imports from the USA to India during the period April—July, 1972 amounted to Rs. 63.62 crores, as compared with Rs. 155.22 crores during the corresponding period of the previous years.

पालम हवाई अड्डे पर कंट्रोल टावर

*317. डा० भाई महावीर : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पालम के कंट्रोल टावर को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर तथा मानक के अनुरूप बनाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ख) इस कार्य के कब तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है और क्या सरकार इस हवाई अड्डे पर हाल में हुई दुर्घटनाओं को देखते हुए इस परि- योजना को उच्चतम प्राथमिकता देने का विचार रखती है ?