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(c) The particulars are not available as statistics of imports are not maintained importer-wise.

CLEARANCE OF OVERDRAFTS BY STATES

1668. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA : SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have not cleared the overdrafts and the amount of overdrafts of each State as on the 1st December, 1972; and

(b) the arrangements or adjustments made to clear the overdrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) As on 1st December, 1972, no State had an overdraft on the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) Does not arise.

BUILDINGS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES ABROAD BY TEA MONOPOLY HOUSES

1669. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news captioned "150—crore loot by Tea Cartels" in the Blitz, dated July 29, 1972 regarding building of huge foreign exchange reserves abroad by a few foreign Monopoly Houses controlling Indias Tea Industry;

(b) if so, the names of the monopolists referred to therein; and

(c) whether any probe has been made into the racket; if so, by which agency and the finding thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b) Government have seen the Report in the 'Blitz' of 29th July, 1972. But the report stated to have been sent by the West Bengal Labour Minister regarding control of India's tea industry by a few monopoly houses has not been received.

(c) Does not arise.

COMPENSATION TO SMALL SHARE-HOLDERS OF COMPANIES TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

1670. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from shareholders of undertakings taken over in 1972;

(b) if so, the names of those companies, the number of representations and the basis of representation; and

(c) the policy regarding grant of compensation to small shareholders of the companies or units which are taken over by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

DEVELOPMENT OF SIMILIPAL HILLS

1671. SHRI C. P. MAJHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the Similipal Hills of the Mayur-bhanj District of Orissa into a National Park; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) A scheme for declaring an area of 185 sq. kms. within the Similipal reserve forests of Mayurbhanj District in Orissa as a National Park has been formulated by the Orissa Government and included in their Fifth Plan proposals. The financial outlay proposed for this scheme is Rs. 114 lakhs. Additionally, "Project Tiger" has also selected the Similipal Hill forest area as one of its project areas for building up an optimum and viable tiger population in the country.

ECONOMY IN AIR INDIA

1672. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA : SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

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

- (a) whether Air India has taken any steps to effect economy in expenditure; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air-India has taken a number of measures to effect economy in expenditure including a near freeze on new recruitment; curtailment of certain services and conversion of some on-line offices to off-line status; abolition of free ground transportation to passengers and very strict control over administrative and publicity expenses.

FOREIGN AIRLINES OPERATING IN INDIA

1673. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ground and traffic handling operations of some of the foreign airlines operating in India are done by certain other foreign airlines at the Indian airports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the accounts are mutually settled by these companies out of India thereby depriving much needed foreign exchange to the country;

(c) if so, the extent of loss of foreign exchange suffered thereby;

(d) whether any Indian company has sought Government's permission to undertake or negotiate for such work; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) There are a few such cases.

(b) Government have no information in this regard.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter is being examined by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation keeping in view the experience and resources of the applicants.

INVESTMENT BY LIC IN MONOPOLY BUSINESS HOUSES

1674. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total of Rs. 248.03 crore, private sector investments of the LIC, over Rs. 94.46 crore have been given to the top ten monopoly business houses during 1971-72;

(b) if so, whether any precise policy has been laid down with regard to investments of public sector financial institutions in monopoly enterprises; if so, the details of the guidelines laid thereon; and

(c) how far the same have been followed by the LIC?