

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the improvement in relations between the management of Indian Airlines and the staff including pilots, engineers and other categories of staff, because from what he has been saying, it appears that he is trying to make out that there has recently been an improvement in relations. I want to know whether this improvement in relations is due, partly or entirely, to the recent induction of one very prominent private sector industrialist as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member is intending me to say. But I will say that this is on account of the agreement which we have signed with ICPA in November, 1993 which is now being implemented. It is the result of this agreement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : So, it is not due to him. He has no credit for this.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic training to the pilots for flying was being given by the flying clubs in the country. Now, most of the flying clubs are closed or under the process of closure. May I know from the Minister as to what steps are being taken to keep up these flying clubs in working conditions to produce more pilots for future requirements?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Sir, of course, this is totally a different question. But I would like to say that dearth of pilots is not on account of CPL holders. There are more than 1500 CPL holders at the moment. The dearth is of Commanders and not of co-pilots at the junior level.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, just now the question of pilots was raised. The private companies got a deposit of four and half to five lakh rupees from the boys of the poor families to give them training of pilots. They were even sent to London for training but the private companies are not giving them full salaries. There is a panic among the poor families over this issue. I had talked to the hon. Minister personally in this regard. They are trapped in the local training also. They are not being given full training. What will be the fate of the unemployed youths who have stated the whole earnings of their lives? Today, they are not being given full training and full salaries also. What steps the Government is likely to take, so as to ensure that they get full salaries from the private companies.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : I think that the private companies will not repeat the mistake committed by the Indian Airlines. Only then they will be saved otherwise they will also meet the same fate which the Indian Airlines have met.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : They have got the full amount deposited. They have deposited four and half to five lakh rupees.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They can file cases in the Court against those persons.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Mr. Speaker Sir, just now it was being said that the pilots, the staff and the technicians should not leave their companies. The Vayudoot has been merged with Indian Airlines. It was to pay to the employees and fix the duties of the staff, such cases are lying pending still. The staff had launched as agitation. When a final decision in this regard will be taken?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : I have already given the reply of it. Vayudoot has already merged with the Indian Airlines but it is also to seen that there should be vacant posts to absorb the staff there. As far as Air India and Airports Authority are concerned, whenever the vacancies arise there, the staff of Vayudoot is absorbed instead of taking the persons from outside.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Demand of Opium

*445. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of opium exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any policy to meet the demand for opium in and outside the country for manufacturing life saving drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether opium crop is destroyed every year due to natural calamity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The total quantity of opium exported during the financial year 1994-95 was 407.781 tonnes (at 90°C) and Rs. 58.75 crores was earned as foreign exchange.

(b) and (c). A major portion of the demand for opium comes from foreign buyers of opium who manufacture opiate alkaloids from opium for medical and scientific needs. Opium is also used in India by the Government

Opium and Alkaloid Factories situated at Ghazipur and Neemuch for production of opiate Alkaloids. Before finalising the licensing policy for poppy cultivation at the beginning of a crop year, an estimate is made of the likely demand for opium (for export and domestic use) in the following financial year so that planning of poppy cultivation and opium production could be made accordingly.

(d) Like other agricultural crops, opium crop is also susceptible to vagaries of nature and inclement weather. The villages which suffer damage due to weather conditions are generally different year to year. The areas suffering damage and the extent of damage also differs every year. The main causes of damage are hailstorms, unseasonal rains and strong cold winds.

(e) The details of area under poppy cultivation uprooted (ploughed back) on account of damage during the crop year 1991-92 to 1993-94 is as follows :

Year	Area Measured (Hectares)	Area Uprooted/ Ploughed Back (In Hectares)	% of Area Uprooted/ Ploughed Back
1991-92	14440	77.75	0.54%
1992-93	13657	1747.97	12.80%
1993-94	12985	341.00	2.03%

(f) On receipt of applications from the cultivators reporting damage to their opium crop, verification of extent of damage is undertaken by the departmental officers, wherever required. Damage affected opium crop where no lancing has taken place is permitted to be ploughed back under departmental supervision. On the basis of the reports received from the departmental officers verifying damage, appropriate relief is granted to the concerned cultivators under the licensing policy for the using crop year.

[English]

Lending Rates of Foreign Banks

*446. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some foreign banks have increased the lending rates;

(b) if so, the names of banks alongwith the details of the increase in the lending rates;

(c) whether this increase in rates is in accordance with the guidelines of RBI; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some of the foreign banks have raised their prime lending rates after the announcement of the Credit Policy for the first half of 1995-96 on 17.4.95 as per details given below :

Name of the Bank	Prime Lending Rate (excluding interest tax) (per cent per annum)	Effective date
1. American Express Bank	15.0	26.4.1995
2. Bank of Nova Scotia	16.0	21.4.1995
3. Bank of Tokyo	16.0	26.4.1995
4. Societe Generale	16.0	18.4.1995
5. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Ltd.	15.5	26.4.1995
6. Sakura Bank	16.0	01.5.1995
7. Credit Lyonnais	16.0	20.4.1995

(c) and (d). RBI has intimated that since 18 October, 1994 banks have been given freedom to fix the lending rates for borrowers with credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakhs with the approval of their respective Boards. Each banks prime lending rate needs to be declared and be uniformly applicable at all branches. In view of this, raising of prime lending rates by foreign banks does not contravene RBI guidelines.

Bank Loans to Industrial Sector

*447. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the outstanding loans of public sector banks are rapidly increasing against the industrial sector;

(b) if so, the percentage of bank loans out of the total bank loans outstanding against the industrial sector in 1991-92 and the percentage thereof during 1994-95;

(c) the type of industries against which outstanding bank loans have increased; and

(d) the action taken by the banks to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The percentage of outstanding credit to small, medium and large industries to total outstanding of public sector banks for the last three years as given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given below :

March 1992	48.2
March 1993	49.3
March 1994	48.3