

(i) Introduction of B747-400 Aircraft	Date	No. of invitees	Total Cost
BOM/DEL/BOM	13/14 Aug.93	162	2,52,208
(II) NEW SERVICES			
TRV/SIN/TRV			
BLR/SIN/BLR	Between 1 Jan. and 1 Feb., 1995	58	
MAA/LON/MAA	Between 17 Jan. and 12 Feb., 1995	54	
Total cost of all three new services			37,31,546

(2) FREE/ INAUGURAL PASSES ISSUED BY INDIAN AIRLINES

Year	For Inaugural Flight	Other Than Inaugural Flight	Cost on Free Passes on Inaugural Flight
1993	11	887	1,50,000
1994	32	1646	8,74,000
1995	22	1878	4,05,000
Total	65	4411	14,29,000

[English]

Tobacco Cultivation

498. PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance to the tobacco growers that Government will not curb or reduce the tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage tobacco farmers to continue their tobacco cultivation; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the traditional foreign exchange earning crops like tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of Government for curbing or reducing tobacco cultivation.

(c) and (d) With a view to help tobacco farmers to enhance quality and yield of tobacco, Tobacco Board implements developmental and extension schemes which include supply of seeds/seedlings of high yielding and disease resistant varieties of FCV/Burley tobacco, training and exposure of farmers to the latest research findings, pest and disease control through fumigation of nurseries, subsidising use of sprinkler irrigation system and improving curing and storing facilities.

Some of the steps taken to enhance exports of

tobacco and tobacco products include, re-orientation of production of tobacco to meet the changing international needs, monitoring and control of pesticide residues, aligning grading to international standards, permitting imports for product developments, sponsoring trade delegations and participation in International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.

[Translation]

Tourism Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

499. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourism industry in the Jammu and Kashmir has been totally paralysed due to disturbances in the State;

(b) if so, the income from the tourism industry during the last two years and the number of tourists visited the State; and

(c) the steps taken to improve this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. The disturbances in the State has affected the tourism industry in the Kashmir Valley only and not in other regions.

(b) According to the information available from the State Government, the number of tourists who visited different regions of Jammu and Kashmir during last two years were as given below :-

Year	Number of tourists			Total
	Vaishnodevi and Amarnath	Ladakh	Kashmir Valley	
1994	3742945	17288	9814	3770047
1995	4092127	17985	8498	4118610

There are no estimates available on the income generated from tourism industry in the State.

(c) The steps taken to develop tourism in the State include identification and development of new resorts in Jammu and Ladakh Divisions of the State and its wide publicity through media campaigns.

[English]

Stoppage of Import of Gold by MMTC

500. SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has requested his Ministry for the stoppage of import of gold under the baggage rules;

(b) if so, the basis on which this demand has been raised when the price of gold in the domestic market is soaring day by day;

(c) whether his Ministry has studied the proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir, this Ministry has not received any such request from the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

International Airport at Bhubaneswar

501. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any new airport as international airport in India;

(b) if so, whether Bhubaneswar airport has recently been announced to be made an international airport.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to declare any new airport as international airport.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Bhubaneswar airport is being developed as a Model Airport at a cost of Rs.29.50 crores. Limited

International operations can also take place, whenever necessary.

Violation of Fera Law

502. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
DR. S.P. YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of violation of FERA by Zee TV by entering into an agreement with the STC for promoting the goods of manufactures having potential to export in the export market besides advertising these on Zee TV; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enquiries in the matter have been initiated.

Import Restrictions Under W.T.O.

503. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has asked the Union Government to furnish a list of products on which it maintains quantitative import restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the list is likely to be provided to W.T.O. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) According to the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions adopted by the Council for Trade in Goods of the World Trade Organization on December 1, 1995, all Members are required to make complete notifications of the quantitative restrictions which they maintain by January 31, 1996 and at two yearly intervals thereafter, and to notify changes to their quantitative restrictions as and when these changes occur. In parallel, the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organization adopted in its Report on the Consultations with India on 6th and 8th December 1995 that consultations will be resumed with India in October, 1996, and that India would notify to the W.T.O. all remaining restrictions maintained for balance of payments purposes soon after the announcement of 1996-97 Export-Import Policy. These notification obligations are proposed to be met with by India soon after the announcement of any changes during 1996-97 in the Export Import Policy (1992-97).

Sick Textile Mills

504. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick textile mills, the number of