

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) During the period from November, 1995 to February 1996 (till date) incidents of violation of safety regulations by 4 private airlines viz modiluft, East West Airlines, Elbee Airlines and Mesco Airlines have been reported, Appropriate action has been taken against the crew members/officials responsible for the violations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 to provide for penalties to be imposed on defaulting carriers is under consideration of the Government.

(e) No date/time limit can be specified at this stage.

Third International Handicrafts and Gift Fair

601. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was substantial business generation from abroad and within the country at the Third International Handicrafts and Gift Fair organised at Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, details thereof country-wise and item-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 3rd Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair held in New Delhi recently generated substantial business to the tune of Rs. 600/- crores approximately.

(b) Country-wise and item-wise details for a particular fair is not available.

Uniform Procedure and Documentation in Custom Houses

602. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisation has urged the Government to ensure that custom houses all over the country follow uniform procedures and documentation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export houses are facing problems due to various settlements of duty drawback claims; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures the Government propose to take 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 suggestion from the FIED. However, Customs Houses are required to adopt the prescribed procedures and documentation except where local exigencies warrant some modification.

(b) In view of above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Export Houses have not reported any general difficulty in regard to payment of drawback claims. However, review and simplification of customs procedures is an on-going exercise.

[Translation]

Aircraft Involved in Purulia Incident

603. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the date-wise details and names of the airports where the aircraft involved in the Purulia incident landed alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the pilot of the aforesaid aircraft took prior permission in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the shortcomings in the system that came to light in the above incident and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The aircraft landed at Varanasi and Calcutta on 17.12.95 and at Madras on 21.12.95 for refuelling. It was made to force land at Bombay on 22.12.1995.

(b) and (c) The pilot had taken prior permission of DGCA to operate the flight from Karachi to Yangon with a technical landing to refuel the aircraft at Varanasi and on return from Phuket (Thailand) to Karachi via Calcutta and Varanasi.

(d) Government have appointed a Committee headed by Shri V.K. Jain, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to suggest measures for preventing misutilisation of the permits for chartered flights. The recommendations of the Committee, as approved by the Government, are being strictly followed.

[English]

DA to Central Government Employees

604. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total instalments of DA due for payment to the Central Government employees w.e.f. January 1996;

(b) the details of the payment proposed to be made to different category of employees; and

(c) the steps taken to release the payment ?

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