

services during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have given any grant/compensation or any other budgetary support to the ITDC towards introducing voluntary retirement scheme in the past three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise Division-wise/Activity-wise and unit-wise, if any?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Consequent upon introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in ITDC, the decline in wage bill is as under :-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1992-93 (July'92 to March'93)	290.00
1993-94	390.00

The impact of reduction in the wage bill as a result of death, desertion, retirement, termination of services gets neutralised to a great extent due to replacement of personnel in their place.

(b) and (c) Government of India, as a whole, reimbursed a sum of Rs. 864.30 lakhs on account of retirement of 973 employees in various units of ITDC under the Voluntry Retirement Scheme.

Balance of Payments

7528. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the estimated balance of payments, trade balance, balance from invisible trade, balance of current account and the estimated foreign exchange reserves as on March 31,

1994 and the percentage change over last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : The foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) of the country increased from US\$ 9832 million at the end of March 1993 to US\$ 19254 million as at the end of March 1994 representing an increase of around 96 per cent. According to Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the trade deficit during 1993-94 is provisionally estimated at US\$ 1039 million which is less than one-third of the trade deficit of US\$ 3305 million during 1992-93. The balance of payments estimates of invisibles trade and balance on current account for 1993-94 has not been compiled by the Reserve Bank of India.

Housing Finance in Tamil Nadu

7529. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Commercial Banks have made very little headway under housing finance in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The housing loans made by all banks in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are as under :

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of accounts</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1991	797	588.95
1992	1537	1604.87
1993	770	790.00

There is no State-wise target for housing finance. The slow progress in the achievement of housing finance throughout the country including the State of Tamilnadu may be attributed to the competition of private housing finance companies, employees getting housing finance through their own establishments, restriction on quantum of finance due to application of 30% norms (i.e. total instalment payment not to exceed 30% of the income), restrictions on the repayment period to 15 years in the case of commercial banks as compared to 20 years allowed in the case of other housing finance agencies etc.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued instructions to all the scheduled commercial banks to extend housing finance to individuals, groups of persons, housing boards etc. Since 1989-90 the annual housing finance targets of these banks have been fixed at 1.5% of their individual incremental deposits during the previous years. The banks have also been permitted to exceed their individual housing finance targets to a reasonable level having regard to their resources position and compliance with the statutory reserve requirements.

Calicut Airport

7530. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide better facilities for minor and major repairs on aircraft at the Calicut airport, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of domestic and international flights being operated to and from the Calicut airport at present;

(c) whether hangars are proposed to be built at the Calicut airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM: (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. all facilities needed for line maintenance of Indian Airlines aircraft at Calicut airport have been provided.

(b) 19 International and 33 domestic flights per week are being operated to/from Calicut airport.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Conversion of Historical Buildings into Hotels

7531. PROF. M. KAMSON : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether some historical buildings have been converted into hotels; and

(b) if so, the names of such historical buildings, State and Union Territory-wise with amount spent on each such project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Government has introduced a voluntary scheme whereby buildings constructed prior to 1950 such as forts, palaces, castles, havelis, etc. if converted into hotels can be classified as heritage hotels, thereby providing a new dimension to tourism to the country. So far 22 hotels have been classified under the heritage category. [A State-wise list (Statement) is enclosed].