

Food served on Indian Airlines flights

466. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint about the poor quality of food as well as the non-availability of non-vegetarian food served on Indian Airlines flights during the past two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken on the complaint including the steps being taken for improving the catering services on Indian Airlines flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines have received 423 complaints about the poor quality of food served on IA flights during the last two years.

(c) Indian Airlines has improved the quality of its catering services, including choice of meals, flight menu, and service on board. This is a continuous process. A prompt action is taken on complaints as detailed below:—

- (1) Complaints, on receipt, are acknowledged.
- (2) Shortcomings observed are listed and discussed threadbare in the fortnightly meetings held with the caterers to find solutions.
- (3) Where the complaints are of repetitive and serious nature, suitable penalties are levied on the caterers for taking proper cognizance of the lapses and improvement in future.

Writing off loans

467. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO
GHANGARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans written off by the nationalised banks, due to non-recovery during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) the amount of loan given to top twenty business houses during the above period and the amount written off out of the loan taken by them;

(c) the total expenditure incurred by the nationalised banks on the recovery of loans during the above period; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure the recovery of loans in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Trafficking of Foreign Exchange

468. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently detected any case of illegal trafficking of foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of persons arrested and action taken against them; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal trafficking of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Enforcement Directorate has detected 249 cases of illegal trafficking of foreign exchange during this year. 253 persons found to be involved in these transactions were arrested. As a result of searches, foreign exchange equivalent to Rs. 676.53 lakhs and Indian currency worth Rs. 914.42 were seized. Action as provided under the law is being taken against the guilty persons.

(c) The Government has been keeping a strict vigil on illegal trafficking of foreign exchange. As and when any intelligence about such trafficking is received, detailed investigations are made and appropriate action as provided under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act is taken against the persons concerned.