

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has schemes for assisting all States and Union Territories in the development of tourism infrastructure, development of adventure sports, promotion and publicity efforts and development of manpower resources. On receipt of specific and complete proposals from the State Governments, depending on the merits of each case and funds available, projects are sanctioned by the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The amounts sanctioned for Gujarat for various schemes like development of tourism infrastructure, marketing and publicity, development of adventure sports etc. are placed below :

Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1991-92	141.58
1992-93	20.90
1993-94	65.76
1994-95	21.19

U.S. Special 301 Against India

3814. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Business Software Alliance (BSA) has urged the Clinton Administration to invoke punitive provision of the U.S. trade law provision Special 301 against India for an annual loss of \$ 44 million to American Intellectual Property;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The International Intellectual property Alliance (IIPA), which consists of eight copyright industry associations in the US including the Business Software Alliance, has in its Special 301 petition for 1995 to the United States Trade Representative (USTR), recommended continuance of India in the priority Watch List. The priority Watch List is not a classification created by US law, but an administrative practice. No legally compelling consequences for the US administration flow from the Watch List.

Government has conveyed to the U.S. Administration that there should not be any unilateral judgement or action on trade matters within the purview of the WTO

and that such matters should be resolved multilaterally because unilateral trade measures would be inconsistent with the obligations of the U.S. under the Uruguay Round Agreement.

Diverted Aircraft

3815. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facilities like accommodation, food, transport and communication are provided to the passengers at diverted airport in case of diversion of aircraft to another airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of times such diversion took place from December, 1994 to February, 1995 and the details of facilities provided to the passengers of diverted aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Air India and Indian Airlines provide facilities like accommodation, food, transport and telephone etc. to their passengers in case of diversion of flights, depending upon the facilities available at the diverted airport and extent of ground halt.

During the period from December, 1994 to February, 1995, 19 flights of IA and 4 flights of AI were diverted and the passengers of these diverted flights were extended all possible facilities like meals, layover at the Airlines cost and reimbursement of transport charges.

Use of Bagdogra Airport

3816. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has to pay some amount to the Ministry of Defence for using Bagdogra Airport; and

(b) if so, the amount being paid every year and the terms and conditions of the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Government Austerity at A.I.'s Cost

3817. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government austerity at A.I.'s Cost" appearing in The Sunday Times dated the March 26, 1995;

(b) whether the points raised in the news-item has since been investigated; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to stop practice of upgrading the VIPs holding business J class tickets while travelling on Air India flights, particularly in the busy sectors like Delhi-London/Delhi-New York and host of others?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). 'Upgradation' is a common airline practice; the facility is provided to commercial contacts/VIPs/airline and Government officials. By upgrading, the airlines is also able to ensure optimal utilisation of available capacity by offering vacated seats to waitlisted passengers. A general ban on upgrading is therefore, not desirable.

Value of Rupee

3818. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1792 on March 24, 1995 and state :

(a) the value of the Indian rupee in terms of major European currencies during March 1993, 1994 and 1995; and

(b) whether the rupee is fully convertible on trade account against all these currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The monthly average value of the Indian Rupee in terms of the major European currencies during March 1993, 1994 and 1995 is given in the Table below :

*Rupee Per Unit of Foreign Currencies
(Monthly Average Rates)*

Currency	March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
Pound Sterling	45.9520	46.7971	50.6595
Deutsche Mark	19.1156	18.5319	22.4961
Netherlands Guilder	17.0428	16.5047	20.0928
Swiss Franc	20.7457	21.9351	27.0426
French Franc	5.6395	5.4419	6.3623
Swedish Kroner	4.0712	3.9687	4.3587

(b) Yes, Sir.

Mulberry Cultivation

3819. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested the Union Government for providing financial assistance for large scale mulberry cultivation in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Income Tax Scheme for Shopkeepers and Traders

3820. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of progress made under the "Estimated lump-sum Income Tax Scheme" for the small shopkeepers and traders;

(b) the State-wise targets fixed by the Government in this regard and the actual collection made under this scheme;

(c) the total number of people who have shown their interest in this scheme so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to reconsider this scheme;

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to make this scheme more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The desired information is given below :

(i) Number of cases under Presumptive Tax Scheme during 1994-95 - 324584

(ii) Collection under Presumptive Tax Scheme during 1994-95 - 45.67 Crores
(These figures are Provisional)

Since the collections under this Scheme are part of the total collection under Income Tax, no separate target has been fixed under this Scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Publicity campaign has been launched through the electronic and print media all over the country giving publicity to the Presumptive Tax Scheme under section 115K of the Income Tax Act to make people more aware of this Scheme and to explain to them how this scheme will benefit small businessmen.

[Translation]

Seizure of Poppy Powder

3821. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Gujarat from where Narcotics Department has seized poppy powder as per the position of March, 1995 and the value thereof;