

(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;