

institutions themselves have been operating the bridging finance scheme as part of their normal operations in order to avoid delay in the disbursement of loans and to facilitate drawal of assistance under the Soft Loan Scheme. Bridge loans are being extended generally upto 80 per cent of the loan assistance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Soft Loan Scheme is being operated by the Industrial Development Bank of India in participation with the Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. The pace of sanctions and disbursements under the Scheme has increased over the years. Units in the jute industry have not, however, taken full advantage of the Scheme.

Ban on Export of Rhesus Monkeys to USA

1394. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of rhesus monkeys from India to USA for experimental purposes had been banned in 1978 on grounds of preventing cruelty to animals;

(b) if so, whether it is now proposed to remove the ban; and

(c) whether it is a fact that these monkeys are used in defence laboratories abroad for nuclear and napalm experiments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Governments of importing countries given an undertaking that the monkeys imported from India would be used only for bio-medical research purposes and production of polio vaccines.

Purchase of Boeing-747 Aircraft

1395. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of purchase of Boeing 747 aircraft it was estimated that break-even load factor would be 32.2 per cent and after some time it turned out to be 54.6 per cent;

(b) is it also a fact that Air India did not bring this to the knowledge of Government; and

(c) if so, reason thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). These issues are covered by the 52nd Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (1978-79) (Sixth Lok Sabha) which is under consideration of the Government. The reply of the Government to the 52nd Report will be placed before the Committee as soon as finalised.

Stay of Air India Officers Abroad

1396. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis of the understanding reached with Air India Officers Association in 1977 all postings in Overseas were normally for a period of 3 to 4 years which could be extended up to six years for officers of the Commercial Departments as a special case;