

(c) Measures such as introduction of frequent flier programme, Maharaja and Executive clubs, induction of latest 747-400 aircraft on US/UK sectors, improvement of inflight services, wetleasing of aircraft for additional capacity, connecting new destinations such as Amsterdam, Entebbe, Manchester and Tel Aviv, improvement in computerised reservation system etc. have been taken by Air India to improve its market share.

Duty Free Shops

1104. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise number of notified duty free custom shops in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have received information regarding operation of such unauthorised shops in the State; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to close down such shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) There is no notified duty free customs shop in Uttar Pradesh

(b) Government has no information regarding operation of such unauthorised shops in U.P.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Foreign Exchange to Students

1105. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken notice of the tremendous financial hardship being faced by Indian students studying in USA, U.K., and other foreign countries due to sharp depreciation of 'Rupee' during the last nine months;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the feasibility of providing foreign exchange to such students at the reasonable rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (d) We have not received any representation from any student so far, studying in USA, UK and other foreign countries about the hardship, if any, faced by them. There is no change in extant regulations applicable for release of exchange to the students going for higher studies and the exchange is required to be released at the prevailing market rate.

Opening of a Local Head Office of SBI in Trivandrum

1106. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for setting up a Local Head Office of State Bank of India in Trivandrum has been pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons for its delay; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that the circle re-design, as suggested by the consultants engaged by it for undertaking a detailed study of the organisational structure of the bank, has been introduced in November, 1995 in Bombay and Madras Circles (the branches located in the state of Kerala fall under the administrative control of Madras Circle). It does not envisage creation of a new local head office.

IDBI Assistance to Entrepreneur of Orissa and Gujarat

1107. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA :

DR. K.D. JESWANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received from entrepreneurs of Gujarat and Orissa by the IDBI during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned out of them during the aforesaid period State-wise; and

(c) the unit-wise and year-wise details of the financial assistance provided during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.