

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Public sector banks provide need based credit at concessional rates to small scale industries, including cottage industries as part of their lending programme to the neglected sectors.

The report appearing in Hindustan Times dated 6-2-78, presumably refers to the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme under which loans are provided to eligible borrowers at 4 per cent rate of interest. This scheme, which was initially confined to selected backward districts has in May, 1977 been extended to the entire country, including the Union Territory of Delhi, and banks have also made substantial advances under this scheme.

Proposal to amend Gold Control Act

1582. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to amend the Gold Control Act is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the expected time by which the legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). At present no proposal to amend the Gold Control Act is under the consideration of the Government.

Violation of Air Safety Rules by the Executive of Air India

1583. **SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unfortunate air crash of Air India Jumbo on the New Year Day was due to gross

violation of air safety rules by the Executive of Air India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government considered this a reality and referred its enquiry to the Court of Enquiry; and

(c) if so, when the report of Court of Enquiry is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). The accident is under investigation by a Court of Inquiry headed by Shri Justice M. N. Chandurkar, a Judge of the Bombay High Court. The cause of the accident will be known only after receipt of the investigation report, which is likely to be available by 31st March, 1978.

Correspondence intercepted in respect of Mokalbari Kanoi Tea Estate Private Ltd., Calcutta

1584. **SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4927 on 23rd December, 1977 regarding transfer of huge amount of money by Mokalbari Kanoi Tea Estate Private Ltd., Calcutta and state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate had on number of occasions intercepted certain very important correspondences by the Company to its counterpart in London and West Germany and *vice-versa* and found out the exchange racket;

(b) if so, whether subsequently raids were conducted on the premises; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) No information of any exchange racket by the Company has so far come to the notice of the Enforcement Directorate.

(b) and (c). In view of (a), the question does not arise.