

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Electronic Components Industries belonging to the small scale sector are eligible for all the facilities that are admissible to small scale Industries. In case they belong to large and medium sectors, they are treated at par with other industries for the purpose of sanction of loans.

(b) The present statistical reporting system prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India does not provide for collection of data on such specific categories of industries as electronic components industries.

(c) and (d). Banks provide working capital facilities to industries (including electronic components industry) against hypothecation/pledge of finished goods and other current assets renewable on yearly basis and, therefore, the question of giving advances against finished goods from 1 to 1½ years does not arise. In case of term loans, banks do provide loans for longer periods.

Financial loss suffered by Air India

2855. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last one year or so, Air India has suffered a heavy financial loss and its image due to non-punctuality of flights;

(b) if so, facts therein; and

(c) steps being taken to make up financial losses and regain its image?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). During 1977-78 Air India made a record net profit of Rs. 23.45 crores. However, there had been some loss of revenue due to the curtailment of flights because of the loss of one aircraft in the accident on January 1, 1978.

There has been some news item criticising the delays in Air India flights at Heathrow Airport. However, these have exaggerated the situation caused due to delays which were beyond the control of the Corporation.

(c). To overcome problems of delays, a Punctuality Co-ordination Cell has been recently set up at Santa Cruz to provide a link between various departments which are directly involved in the operation of flights with the main objective of assisting in the operation of flights on time. This Cell started functioning from 1st July, 1978 and will operate round the clock. The terms of reference are:

To observe, analyse and record departure delays to each Air-India flight ex-Bombay.

To anticipate possible delays and to initiate a plan of action to eliminate/reduce snow-balling of delays.

To look into the causes of delays in arrival and departure of scheduled services operated by Air-India and Indian Airlines, a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation was constituted on 3rd May, 1978 with the Managing Directors of Indian Airlines and Air-India, Director General of Civil Aviation, Director General of Observatories and Chairman of the International Airports Authority of India as Members. The working Group under the High Level Committee constituted for collection and analysis of delays in scheduled services has given its report which is under examination.

Air Cargo Complex at Amritsar

2856. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH SAYIANWALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up an air cargo complex at Amritsar is under the active consideration of Government; and