

(b) It is a fact that Dr. Teja left India without taking the tax clearance certificate.

(c) and (d). The Government is seized of the matter. The Income-tax Department has already issued a show cause notice under Section 230(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, to the carrier, namely, M/s. Pan American World Airways for carrying Dr. Teja without a tax clearance certificate. Show cause notice under section 230(2) of the I.T. Act, 1961 has also been issued to M/s. Air India as it had endorsed the ticket reported to have been originally issued by M/s. Iberian Airways in favour of M/s. PAN AM.

Re-Fixation of Floor Price of Rubber

801. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received a memorandum submitted to him by the Malabar Small Growers Association, Calicut regarding re-fixation of floor price of rubber ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to it and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Malabar Small Grower's Association, Calicut had submitted (in August, 1977, a Memorandum to the Prime Minister requesting *inter alia* for re-fixation of floor price of rubber at the rate of Rs. 1,000/- per quintal.

Since the prices of rubber in the Kottayam market were ruling much higher than the notified minimum prices of rubber the validity of the prices fixed at Rs. 655/- per quintal for RMA-I grade with differentials for other grades with effect from 6th August, 1977 to 31st March, 1978 and later extended upto 31st May, 1978 has been further extended upto 31st August, 1978. The position will be reviewed in August, 1978 in the light of the trend of market prices of rubber then.

Opening of Tourist Promotion Centres in Foreign Countries

802. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA :

SHRI AHMED M. PATEL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the criteria adopted for opening tourist promotion centres in foreign countries ;

(b) the number of tourists promotion centres functioning abroad with their location ;

(c) whether Government are considering to open such new centres in order to promote tourism ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI FURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) The main considerations *inter alia* for opening tourist promotion offices in foreign countries are the size of the market available; the potential it holds for tourist traffic to India; the spending capacity of the market; the population of the country concerned; the per capita Gross National Product (GNP) and per capita disposable income which can be used for travel purposes.

(b) There are now 18 Government of India Tourist Offices abroad. A list of such offices with areas covered by the m is attached.

(c) and (d). There is a proposal to open a new tourist office at Kuala Lumpur to promote greater tourist traffic from Malaysia. The proposal is yet to be finalised in consultation with the authorities concerned.

Statement

LIST OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TOURIST OFFICES ABROAD

There are now 18 overseas offices covering the following areas :—

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1. New York | } Function under arrangement of 'Operation America'—cover U.S.A., Latin America, Canada and Caribbean Islands. | } Regional Director New York supervises the functioning of these offices. |
| 2. Los Angeles | | |
| 3. Chicago | | |
| 4. Toronto | | |
| 5. London | Functions under arrangement of 'Operation U.K.'—covers U.K. and the Eire. | |
| 6. Geneva | } Function under arrangement of 'Operation Europe' cover Continental Europe. | } Regional Director Geneva supervises the functioning of these offices. |
| 7. Paris | | |
| 8. Frankfurt | | |
| 9. Brussels | | |
| 10. Stockholm | | |
| 11. Vienna | | |
| 12. Milan | | |
| 13. Sydney | } Function under 'Operation Australasia'— cover Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. | } Regional Director Sydney supervises the functioning of these offices. |
| 14. Perth | | |
| 15. Singapore | | |
| 16. Tokyo | } Function under 'Operation East Asia'—cover Japan, Philippines, Hong Kong and Thailand. | } Regional Director Tokyo supervises the functioning of these offices. |
| 17. Bangkok | | |
| 18. Kuwait | Functions under 'Operation West Asia'—covers countries in West Asia. | |

In addition Tourist Promotion Offices attached to some of the above offices are located at Washington D.C., Miami, Dallas and San Francisco in U.S.A. and Tehran (Iran) and Melbourne (Australia) and Osaka (Japan).

Central Trade Service

803. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Trade Service was announced in August, 1977 by a Gazette Notification ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that initial induction of personnel has not yet taken place; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be initiated to expedite the initial recruitment to the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Selection Committee has already been appointed. It has held one meeting already and is expected to complete its work soon.