

Shortage of Pilots for Airbus Aircrafts

944. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
SHRI OM PRAKASH
TYAGI :

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is facing a temporary shortage of pilots for its airbus aircraft because of the almost instant delivery of the two additional planes the Airlines ordered in March;

(b) if so, whether there are some difficulties in putting existing pilots to the airbus; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Defective Plane on Morning Flight No. 409 from Delhi to Patna/Ranchi

945. SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the morning flight No. 409 from Delhi to Patna and Ranchi was abandoned on 19th May, 1978 because of some defect in the plane;

(b) whether it was resumed at 3 p.m. in the afternoon by the same plane which again developed serious trouble and had to return to the airport with passengers gasping for breath and the cabin overheated; and

(c) what action, if any, has been taken for putting the plane to flight without checking its fitness?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The flight was delayed due to the failure of the auxiliary power unit.

(b) No, Sir. A different aircraft resumed the flight at 1445 hours but had to return to the base due to pressurisation failure. The aircraft provided with automatic supply of oxygen to passengers in the event of pressurisation failure were made use of by the passengers. In such cases, there is some unavoidable discomfort to passengers and the cabin pressure also goes up to some extent. However, safety is not affected.

(c) The matter is under investigation.

Impact of gold auction scheme on prices of gold

946. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government's gold auction scheme has brought any impact on the prices of gold in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Reduction in the price of gold or pegging the price of gold at a particular level is not the objective of Government's gold sales policy. The sale of gold by the Government has been designed as an economic measure to supplement preventive measures in tackling the evil of smuggling of gold. The sale has discouraged smuggling of gold into the country. The gold prices in India have shown some tendency to fall since the commencement of the gold sale operations in spite of the rising trend in international prices.

Dismissal of Employees of Super Bazar, New Delhi

947. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees of Super Bazar, New Delhi have been thrown out of service; and

(b) if so, the strength category-wise as on 1st April, 1977 and on 30th June, 1978 and the number of persons dismissed and the reasons therefore?

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

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to Streamline the Departments of Customs and Excise

948. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to streamline the departments of Excise and Customs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?