

Clearing of Backlog of Consignments at Madras Airport

817. DR. P. V. PERIASAMY : Will the MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as on date about 600 tonnes of garments and leather consignments are lying at Madras Airport and whether this has led to cancellation of orders from abroad because of non-compliance of delivery schedule; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry for clearing the backlog of consignments of garments and leather goods ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) The actual backlog of cargo at Madras airport as on 10th July, 1979 was 205 tonnes. Government have no information in regard to cancellation of orders, consequent upon backlog of cargo lying at Madras airport.

(b) Various airlines including Air-India are being permitted to operate extra charter flights to clear the backlog expeditiously.

Time limit for declaration of property in India by Non-resident Indians and Foreigners of Indian Origin

818. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the time-limit for declaration of property acquired in India by non-resident Indians and foreigners of Indian origin between January 1, 1974, and May 31, 1979, has been extended by the Reserve Bank of India to December, 31, 1979 ;

(b) whether Government have received representations regarding the difficulties arising from certain provisions of the FERA ;

(c) whether a large number of non-resident Indians who had migrated from Punjab, having been remitting their earnings to their dependants at home have been facing difficulties in the disposal of their earnings and operation of non-resident accounts in the banks in India ; and

(d) if so, the decision of Indian Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir

(c) and (d). A number of representations had been received by the Government from the representatives and associations of the non-resident Indians and foreigners of Indian origin wherein, among other things, difficulties arising out of the operation of Section 9 of FERA, 73, which regulates payments, were enumerated. These difficulties, faced by non-resident Indians and foreigners of Indian origin with regard to the disposal of their earnings and operations of non-resident accounts, were examined by a Working Group and the following decisions have been taken by the Government :—

(i) The resident Indians who are acting on behalf of non-residents have been permitted to collect rent on properties owned by non-residents provided the amount is credited within two months from the date of receipt of such amount to the account of the non-residents with a authorised dealer in foreign exchange in India.

(ii) Non-Resident Indians have been permitted to open joint accounts with residents for the purpose of crediting the rent on the properties owned by them, provided the resident is a first degree relative. A resident has also been permitted to operate on a non-resident account provided he has obtained a power of attorney in his favour, granted by the non-resident account holder and such operation is as per the existing regulations relating to operation of non-resident ordinary accounts.

(iii) Rentals on properties of any kind, held by non-residents, can now be credited freely and there is no need for Reserve Bank of India's approval for the first credit to the non-resident ordinary account or for any change in the terms of tenancy.

Addition of Jumbo Jets for Air India

819. SHRI D. AMAT :
SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI :

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

(a) whether Government propose to add four more Jumbo Jets for Air India during the current financial year ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Air India have placed orders with the Boeing Co., USA,

for purchase of one B-747 aircraft in replacement of the one lost in accident on 1-1-1978 at an estimated cost of Rs. 41.77 crores, and in addition, have also placed orders with the Boeing Co., for purchase of three B-747 aircraft at a total estimated project cost of Rs. 148.44 crores in foreign exchange and Rs. 10.50 crores in Indian currency. Of the above aircraft, one is due for delivery in August, 1979, the second in December, 1979 and the remaining two in March 1980.

Unearthing of gang of smugglers in Gold and Watches across Indo-Pakistan Border

820. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI :
SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT :

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang of smugglers which allegedly traded in gold and watches worth about ten crores over the last one year across the Indo-Pakistan border has been unearthed, according to news appeared in Hindustan Times dated 12th June, 1979 ; and

(b) If so, what are the details in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) : (a) and (b).

According to reports received by Government, a major gang of smugglers indulging in smuggling of gold and watches across Indo-Pakistan border has been busted by the Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. On 31-12-1978, Shri Pal Singh alias Pala, Leader of this gang was apprehended at Delhi along with contraband goods including watches, snake skins etc. valued at about Rs. 10 lakhs. In the follow-up action, another important member of this gang, Shri Kashmiri Singh was arrested at Amritsar while attempting to escape to Pakistan alongwith Indian currency of Rs. 11.5 lakhs believed to be sale proceeds of contraband goods. In this connection, 12 persons have also been arrested. Of these, 4 persons including S/Shri Pal Singh and Kashmiri Singh have been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Seizure of Gold, Watches, Synthetic and Electronics Goods

821. SHRI S. R. REDDY : Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state the quantity and value of gold, watches, synthetics and electronic goods seized during last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) : The quantity/ value of gold and the value of other items namely, watches, synthetic fabrics, etc., for the last five years are indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Year	Gold Qty in kgs.	Value in Rs.	Watches	Synthetic fabrics	Others	Total
(Value Rs. in lakhs)						
1975	414	222	391	1299	2617	4589
1976	173	83	300	662	2557	3602
1977	267	162	168	957	1707	2994
1978	220	153	371	1018	1552	3094
1979 (upto May)	46	50*	153*	406*	719*	1328*

*Figures provision.