

Air-India and Indian Airlines is under consideration of the Government.

Exchange of Air Services between India and China

738. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some months back some senior officers of Air-India visited China at the invitation of the Chinese Government;

(b) if so, the extent to which the possibility of exchange of air services between the two countries has increased thereby;

(c) whether the visit has also led to some progress in the improvement of relations between the two countries; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Loan Agreement with Canada

739. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a development assistance loan agreement has been recently signed by the Governments of India and Canada; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BHADOT): (a) Yes, Sir. An Agreement for a loan of Canadian dollar 25 million (Rs. 17.5

crores) was signed on 15th March, 1980 between the Governments of India and Canada.

(b) The loan was to finance Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation's on-going programmes of minor irrigation, agro-service centres, animal husbandry, forestry programmes, inland fisheries, marine fisheries benefiting small fishermen, gobar gas plants etc.

The loan is free from interest, commitment and service charges. The repayment period is 50 years including a grace period of 10 years.

Salient features of Import Policy for 1980-81

740. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what are the salient features of the Import Policy for the year 1980-81 announced by Government recently?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): A statement is attached.

Statement

Salient Features of Import Policy for the year 1980-81

GENERAL

Reasonable restrictions have been imposed so as to reduce dependence on imports to the extent possible, thereby providing the desired protection to the indigenous industry.

2. Certain provisions have been introduced to give an impetus to export effort.

3. Transitional arrangements have been made for utilisation of licences already in operation or new licences to be issued against previous claims, in order to achieve effective implementation of the new import policy.