

(b) what is the air traffic between Cochin and Bombay of passengers and goods; and

(c) whether it is a fact that many passengers are unable to get air tickets due to lack of aircraft or cancellations of a number of flights from Bombay to Cochin and *vice versa*?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A.P. SHARMA): (a) Delhi/Bombay air route yielded the maximum and Gauhati/Silchar air route the lowest revenue to Indian Airlines during the year 1980-81.

(b) Indian Airlines carries approximately 5500 passengers and 22000 kgs. cargo in each direction on Bombay/Cochin route per month.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is considerable demand on this sector and to meet it, Indian Airlines has planned to increase the capacity on this route to 18 flights per week during Summer and 21 flights per week during Winter Schedule from the present 14 flights per week.

Seizure of Contraband Goods in Delhi

58. SHRI D. M. PUTTEE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of contraband goods have been seized by the custom officials during the last 6 months in Delhi;

(b) if so, full details thereof; and

(c) action Contemplated by Government against the persons involved in such deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). According to reports received by Government, the Customs authorities in Delhi seized smuggled goods such as gold, wrist watches, synthetic textiles and electronic goods totally valued at about Rs. 90.57 lakhs dur-

ing the period July, 1981 to December, 1981.

(c) Appropriate action under the Customs Act, 1962, has been initiated against the persons found involved in these cases.

India Losing Position as a Major Silk Producer

59. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is fast losing her position as one of the major silk producers of the World;

(b) if so, the particular reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is implementing various sericulture development programmes for increasing raw silk production from its present level of 5,000 tonnes to 9,000 tonnes by end of Sixth Plan. A World Bank aided Project with outlay of Rs. 80 crores has been launched in Karnataka. In other sericulture States also, various schemes are being implemented during the Sixth Plan for increasing the total raw silk production in the country.

Setting up of Cottages and Luxurious Hotels at Konarak and Puri

60. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cottages and luxurious hotels are proposed to be set up at Konarak and Puri in Orissa by the joint collaboration of