

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The commercial agreement between Air India and Air Canada was signed on 19th April, 1982. It was received in the Civil Aviation Department on 4th June, 1982 for approval. The D.G.C.A. objected to two of the articles of the agreement and Air India agreed to delete the two articles. Thereafter the commercial agreement was approved on 24th June, 1982.

(c) and (d). Air India's decision not to avail of the right to serve both Canada and U. S. A. on the same service is a decision in its commercial judgement. No explanation has been asked from Air India on this point. It has been pointed out to Air India that it was worthwhile to retain the flexibility to serve both Canada and U. S. A. on the same service during the period of unilateral operation of Air India.

Smuggling of Readymade Garments from Bangladesh and Nepal

4454. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases have come to the notice of Government regarding the smuggling of readymade garments from Bangladesh and Nepal into India during 1981-82 ;

(b) if so, the number of such cases, the number of persons arrested and the cases wherein action is pending; and

(c) the steps taken to stop this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department along the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal borders has been strengthened. The concerned enforcement agencies in the region namely the Customs, State Police and Border Security Force authorities have been alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling across the borders.

Bank Advances to Weaker Sections of Society

4455. SHRI N.E. HORO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the share in bank advances to weaker sections of the society, such as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, landless agricultural labourers as on 1979 (January), 1980 and 1981;

(b) the contribution of the amount by nationalised banks and other banks;

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure adequate flow of credit to the weaker sections; and

(d) which schemes are in operation for giving loans to the really deserving people from such weaker sections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The following table indicates the share of Scheduled Castes/

Scheduled Tribes in the advances of Public Sector Banks (latest available) :—

Rs. in crores

	December 1979	December 1980
Total advances	17,972	22,336
Priority sector advances	6,011	7,901
Advances to SC/ST	250	339

Advances of Public Sector Banks for weaker sections in agriculture i.e. small and marginal farmers, were Rs. 506 crores and Rs. 680 crores as on March 1979 and March 1980 (latest available) respectively.

(c) and (d). Some of the important measures taken to ensure adequate flow of credit to the weaker sections are given below :—

- (i) Banks have been asked to ensure that 40% of their advances should be towards the priority sector by 1985.
- (ii) Advances to weaker section in agriculture should form 50% of the banks' total direct advances to agriculture.
- (iii) Advances to weaker section in small scale industries sector should form 12.5% of bank advances to small scale industries.
- (iv) The lending procedures in the banks have been simplified. Security and margin requirements have also been relaxed.
- (v) Concessional rates of interest are charged from smaller borrowers. Under Differential Rates of Interest Scheme, the banks lend to eligible persons at four per cent of interest only.
- (vi) The banks have been advised to meet the requirements of the beneficiaries of the Integra-

ted Rural Development Programme to the maximum extent possible. The beneficiaries of the Programme comprise mainly of the poorest amongst the poor in the rural areas and these include Agricultural labourers, landless workers, rural artisans, marginal farmers etc.

Spot information of arrival and departure of Indian Airlines flights at Major Airports

4456. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have considered to introduce spot information of arrival and departure of Indian Airlines flights at major airports to make it available from an automatic message dissemination telephone system soon ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A.P. SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines is planning to introduce Automatic Telephone Answering and Announcing machines for disseminating information of arrivals and departures of their flights at major airports namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad. The machines will be installed as soon as suitable commercial models are made available by the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore.

Distribution of Controlled and Janata Cloth

4457. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether active steps have been taken to make controlled cloth