

(c) According to Punjab and Sind Bank as far as is known no amount was released to defunct and non-existing periodicals. Some advertisements, however, are released to small regional newspapers.

(d) According to Punjab and Sind Bank in case of a few publications enjoying advance facilities with the bank, part of the amount released to them against advertisements is adjusted towards bank loans/overdrafts. But as far as is ascertainable these publications are neither defunct nor non-existing.

(e) and (f). According to Punjab and Sind Bank all bills for advertisements are properly scrutinised and payments are effected through cheques and credit advices only. It has not come across any evidence indicating that any official of the bank has obtained any pecuniary gains from the amounts released.

Acquisition of Airbuses by I.A.

3145. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Airbuses and Aircraft acquired by Indian Airlines in 1982-83;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to acquire more such Airbuses and aircraft in the current financial year;

(c) if so, the total number of such Airbuses and Aircraft proposed to be purchased in this year; and

(d) by which year jets can be operated by I.A. on all its routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF CIVIL AVIATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Indian Airlines acquired two Airbus and four Boeing-737 aircraft during 1982-83.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Low traffic demand on the routes presently operated by turbo-prop aircraft do not justify their operation by bigger jet aircraft in the near future. Jets can be

operated by Indian Airlines on all its routes only when the traffic demand improves or when a suitable small jet aircraft becomes available.

Meeting of Finance Minister with representatives of trade unions in L.I.C.

3146. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister had a meeting with representatives of all the trade unions in LIC wherein he had suggested them to submit their concretised views on all the pending issues, including charter of demands, proposed split up of LIC and micro-processors etc. and whether he had stated that the Government did not desire to have confrontation with the LIC unions; and

(b) if so, since the LIC unions had already submitted their concretised views to the Finance Minister, do Government propose to initiate negotiations with the unions to settle the pending issues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Many persons have been informally meeting the Finance Minister from time to time. They have given various suggestions and made various demands for consideration of Government and the Corporation.

Export of Sugar

3147. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar is being exported; if so, the quantity of Sugar exported during the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 and the quantity likely to be exported during the current year;

(b) the names of the countries to whom the export of sugar is being made and at what rate;

(c) whether it is a fact that our country has attained the target of sugar production; and