

(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

(d) if so, what measures are being taken to increase our sugar production to meet the sugar demand inside the country and also earn foreign exchange by exporting it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

The quantity of sugar exported during the financial years 1980-81 and 1981-82 is as follows:—

Year	Qty. lakh MT	Value Rs. crores
1980-81	0.715	35.96
1981-82	1.386	49.22

The total quantity of sugar to be exported during the current financial year has not yet been finalised

(b) During the current financial year sugar has been exported to Indonesia, U.S.A., Egypt, China and Maldives at the best available international prices.

(c) and (d). In 1981-82 season, a record production of 84.34 lakh tonnes has been achieved. This has resulted in a large carry over of about 33 lakh tonnes as on 1st October '82. This increase in production has been achieved as a result of following measures taken by the Government:

(i) Statutory minimum cane price payable by sugar factories in 1980-81 and 1981-82 season were fixed at Rs. 13 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery as against Rs. 12.50 fixed for 1979-80 season. However, the cane prices actually paid by the factories were much higher.

(ii) All India weighted average levy sugar prices for 1980-81 and 1981-82 seasons were about Rs. 285 and Rs. 290 per quintal respectively as against only Rs. 229 per quintal for 1978-79 season.

(iii) Incentive by way of excise duty rebate for early and late crushing for 1981-82 season were given.

(iv) Incentives for new factories and expansion projects were announced by way of higher free sale quota and concessional rate of excise duty.

(v) Licences are being granted for establishment of new sugar factories as well as expansions in existing units during 6th Plan Period.

Efforts are being made to maximise the export of sugar after meeting domestic requirements.

**Squeeze in Credit Facility in State Bank of India in Bihar**

3148. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that credit facility in the State Bank of India in Bihar has been squeezed;

(b) whether following temporary credit squeeze imposed by the Reserve Bank of India, the State Bank of India in the State of Bihar has clamped blanket credit squeeze in case of all its clients including small scale industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that this has caused serious monetary crisis in case of small scale entrepreneurs who are facing closure;

(d) whether it is a fact that similar credit squeeze has been relaxed in Delhi and other local head offices of the State Bank of India; and

(e) if the reply to (a), (b), (c) and (d) above be in affirmative, will Government intervene to restore the credit facility to small scale industries in Bihar immediately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). State Bank of India have reported that they have not clamped blanket credit squeeze in Bihar. Although, during the latter half of the financial year 1981-82, the commercial banks including State Bank of India, were required to conform to enhanced cash reserve and statutory liquidity ratios, they had been specifically advised not to curtail the flow of credit to smaller borrowers in the priority sectors, which, inter-alia, include small scale