

(b) if so, what are the reasons that promotions in the grade of Assistant Civilian Staff Officer and above are being made on merits ;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to redeem the importance given to seniority by the Supreme Court ; and

(d) the number of officers given promotion in the grade of Civilian Staff Officer and above on merit this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Promotions to the grades of Assistant Civilian Staff Officer (Group 'B' Gazetted,) Civilian Staff Officer (Group 'A') and Selection Grade (Group 'A') are made on the basis of selection, as provided in AFHR Civil Service Rules, 1968,

(c) Does not arise,

(b) Nil.

State of Economy

4078. SHRI KUMBHA RAM ARYA :
DR. A.U. AZMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fall in kharif output and slower industrial growth is responsible for the steep rise in prices;

(b) whether the balance of payment position is in doldrum; and

(c) whether there is a substantial overall deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The pressure on prices this year is attributed, inter alia to the severe drought of 1982 which led to a decline agricultural production and slower industrial growth.

(b) No, Sir. The balance of payments position during 1982-83 and in the current year so far has shown improvement.

(c) The Hon' ble Member is presumably referring to the budgetary deficit of the Central Govt. According to the budget for 1983-84, the deficit for the current year was estimated at Rs. 1586 crores (BE) as compared with Rs. 1935 (RE) for 1982-83.

Declaration of Trivandrum Airport International Airport

4079. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
SHRI P. K. KODIYAN :
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) how many international flights are operated from Trivandrum Aerodrome per week;

(b) whether Trivandrum Aerodrome has been declared as an international airport; and

(c) if not, whether the aerodrome will be so declared especially in view of the traffic density of the aerodrome and the fact that at present a number of smaller aircraft operated by international airlines can conveniently land at Trivandrum and further that on completion of the developmental work in progress, the aerodrome will be capable of operation of international aircraft of any type?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :
(a) At present 15 international flights are operating from Trivandrum Aerodrome every week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As the existing four international airports are adequately catering to the international traffic needs the Government is not contemplating declaration of any other airport in the country as an international airport.

Procurement of Iran Ore by MTC from Mines in Orissa

4080. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :