

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) According to the available information, the hijackers were armed with only one pistol besides 2 or 3 kirpans which sikh passengers are allowed to carry on the domestic flights of Indian Airlines. The circumstances in which the weapon reached the aircraft are under investigation.

(c) Such boxes, if carried as hand baggage, are checked by the aircraft security staff either through the X-Ray baggage scanner or manually.

(d) The registered accompanied baggage of passengers is not normally subjected to any examination as the passengers have no access to it *en-route*.

(e) No, Sir.

Slackening of flow of investment under the non-resident external rupee and Foreign Currency Accounts

2005. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the flow of investment under the non-resident external rupee and foreign currency accounts which touched Rs. 850 crores in 1983-84 may slacken this year ;

(b) whether his Ministry fears that the high interest rates overseas may dampen the non-resident enthusiasm to invest in India ; and

(c) whether the normal remittances by non resident Indians to families in India have also been reduced during 1983 and are also likely to be reduced in 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Net accumulations in deposits on Non-Resident (External) Rupee and Foreign

Currency Non-Resident Accounts at the end of March, 1984 were of the order of Rs. 2847 crores as against the figure of Rs. 1886.04 crores at the end of March, 1983. This would mean a net growth of Rs. 960.96 crores during 1983-84. At the end of June, 1984 the balances were of the order of Rs. 2994 crores and the net growth of deposits during the three months of the current financial year was of the order of Rs. 147 crores. It would be observed that the flow of investment in these accounts have continued to increase.

(b) Interest rates abroad have risen visibly in recent months and this could affect the flow of resources to these deposit accounts. However, there are other socio economic factors also that determine the flow of funds into these accounts.

(c) Data on normal remittances by non-resident Indians to families in India during the year 1983 are not yet available. It is therefore, not possible to say whether these have declined in that year. Such remittances form part of 'Private Transfer' in the current account of Balance of Payment data; and latest period for which data available is April-September, 1982. At Rs. 1110 crores these show an improvement over remittances of Rs. 922 crores during the same period of 1981. Normal remittances for families depend on the number of non-resident Indians who feel obliged to send money to their families in India and the order of their commitment in this regard. While there is no reason to believe that private transfer receipts for family maintenance will come down, it is not possible to assess precisely the trend of remittances in this regard during 1984.

Delay in the settlement of pension benefits to the Retirement Civilian Employees of Cochin Naval Base

2006. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reason for delay in the settle-