

Proposal to construct new Airports in the Country

1810. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since finalised proposal to the construct new Airports in the country ;

(b) if so, their location ; and

(c) the time when the work will be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c). Proposals for construction of aerodromes at Tirupathi (Andhra Pradesh), Barapani (Assam) and Calicut (Kerala) have already been finalised. The aerodrome at Tirupathi is under construction and is expected to be ready in 1972. Construction work at Barapani is expected to commence shortly and it is hoped that the aerodrome will be ready before the end of the Plan period. The aerodrome at Calicut will be taken up during the current Plan to be completed in the next Plan period. A scheme for the construction of an aerodrome at Hubli (Mysore) is being prepared.

Losses Suffered by Indian Airlines

1811. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines have been showing losses during the last three years ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government propose to overhaul the whole administrative set up to minimise the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION; (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, Indian Airlines made a profit of Rs. 165.74 lakhs in 1968-69 and of Rs. 228.43 lakhs in 1969-70. During the year 1970-71

that Corporation incurred a loss of Rs. 467.60 lakhs.

(b) The main reasons for the loss in 1970-71 were :-

(i) frequent disruption of services due to labour troubles ;

(ii) substantial increase in wages ;

(iii) Loss of three F-27 aircraft ;

(iv) increase in excise duty on aviation fuel;

(v) re-routing and suspension of certain services to avoid overflying Pakistan ; and

(vi) increase in insurance rates so as to cover hijacking risks.

(c) The Sen Committee has made certain recommendations which are under examination.

Proposal to encourage Indigenous Manufacture of Soap

1812. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : SHRI K. MALLANNA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of tallow is inadequate and consequently the production soap is suffering ; and

(b) whether Government propose to encourage the manufacture of soap without the imported tallow in view of the tradition of fine quality of soap manufacturing in ancient India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The quantity of tallow being imported is considered adequate for the manufacture of soap considering the availability of hard oils like Mohwa oil, hydrogenated vegetable oil etc.

(b) With a view to reducing the import of tallow and exploiting the potential oil resources in the country, stress is being laid on the use of minor and non-traditional oils. Incentives in form of excise rebate on soap

production using minor seed oils was announced by Government on 29.5.1971.

Meeting of International Monetary Fund

1813. SHRI H. M. PATEL :
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI CHINTAMANI
PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the International Monetary Fund was held recently ;

(b) if so, Government of India's contribution at this meeting specially in regard to the interest of the weaker nations ; and

(c) the response that Government of India's proposals evoked amongst the member countries.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). The Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund was held at Washington from the 27th September to 1st October 1971. I attended the meeting in my capacity as India's Governor.

The main in'crest in the Fund meeting was focussed on the current international monetary situation. In the course of my address, I expressed the concern of developing countries over the present crisis and stressed the need for an urgent re-alignment of parities of the currencies of the major industrial countries, the establishment of an essentially stable per value system and the importance of member countries working within the forum and discipline of the IMF. I expressed the hope that allocation of Special Drawing Rights would continue and suggested an examination of the future role of Special Drawing Rights as a primary reserve asset and also renewed our plea for establishing effective practical links between the international monetary system and the needs of development finance. I further suggested that arrangements for forging links between Special Drawing Rights and development finance should be speedily established and written into the Articles of Agreement of the IMF.

I also stressed the need to ensure that the views and interests of the developing countries which constitute a vast majority of the members of the IMF, should be appropriately reflected in the decisions of the Fund, and for this purpose a more rational adjustment in the relative voting strengths of the richer countries and developing countries should be brought about.

Governors from developed countries generally supported some of these ideas. The Governors of the Fund unanimously passed a Resolution calling upon the members of the Fund to establish a satisfactory structure of exchange rates and to facilitate the resumption of the orderly conduct of the operations of the Fund. Members were also called upon to collaborate with the Fund and with each other to bring about a reversal of the tendency to maintain restrictive trade and exchange practices. The Resolution also requested the Executive Directors to report to the Board of Governors on the measures necessary for the improvement or reform of the international monetary system ; and for this purpose to study all aspects of the system including the role of Special Drawing Rights.

Lack of Ships to conduct Research in Indian Ocean

1814. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to a statement in New Delhi on September 23, 1971 by Commander Donald Walsh, who holds the distinction of having made the deepest dive in the world, in which he stated that India lacked the necessary ships to effectively conduct research programme in the Indian Ocean ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b). It is true that our facilities for effective oceanographic research have yet not been developed fully.

L.I.C.'s Stake in M/s. Smith Stanistreet Ltd., Calcutta

1815. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corpora-