

necessity to stop repayments to the U.S.A. on account of capital repayments/interest charges of freeze funds under P.L. 480, consequent on the suspension by the United States of a part of her economic aid to India.

**Purchase of Air-Taxis
from Abroad**

1106. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to purchase Air-Taxis from abroad;

(b) if so, from which country and the type of the aircraft proposed to be purchased;

(c) the expenditure involved; and

(d) the manner in which these will be made use of ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Air-Taxis between Smaller Airports
to Improve Tourist Traffic**

1107. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 129 on the 19th November, 1971 regarding Air-taxis between smaller airports to improve tourist traffic and state at which stage the matter stands now ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : The matter is not being pursued for the time being.

Loans Sanctioned to Collieries Producing Metallurgical Coal

1108. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many collieries, producing metallurgical coal, have been sanctioned loan of Rs. 5 lakhs and above since 1969;

(b) what extra production of metallurgical coal and increase in employment are envisaged by these loans; and

(c) the names of collieries producing metallurgical coal and the amount of loans disbursed to them and when these were disbursed ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the term loans sanctioned since 1969 by the all India long term public financial institutions to industrial concerns producing metallurgical coal. Since 1969 a foreign currency loan of Rs. 7.4 lakhs to one colliery viz. M/s. West Bokaro Ltd. has been sanctioned. The disbursement has not yet taken place. As the loan was for importing machinery to improve its haulage operations no additional production of metallurgical coal or additional employment as such is envisaged as a direct result of this financial assistance.

**Loans for Development of Coal
Mines in West Bengal
and Bihar**

1109. SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1888 on 11th June, 1971 and state :

(a) whether the information regarding loans for development of coal mines in West Bengal and Bihar has since been collected; and

(b) if not, the reason for delay in collecting the information ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The information has since been collected and the assurance is being fulfilled.

Relief to the bereaved family of Shri Fauji Ram killed in road accident in Delhi

1110. SHRI DHAN SHAH PRA-DHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 11 on the 15th November, 1971 and state :

(a) whether Government have received any petition regarding the hardships being experienced by the family of the deceased Shri Fauji Ram (ex-civilian labourer in Shakur Basti Depot, Delhi) in getting his pay for September, 1971, Provident Fund and other dues from the Department in the absence of Death Certificate;

(b) the action taken to save the bereaved family from the aforesaid hardships; and

(c) whether Government have granted pension to the bereaved family for only three years and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1741/- was paid to the widow of the late Shri Fauji Ram on the 16th November, 1971, from the locally constituted Death Benefit Scheme of the Depot. The Treasury Officer was requested on the 13th January, 1972 for disbursement of an anticipated death gratuity of Rs. 990/- The audit authorities were also asked on the 19th February, 1972, for making payment of GP Fund accumulations. Dues in regard to his pay and allowances are being pre-audited for payment.

(c) Pending grant of family pension for life, anticipatory pension award of Rs. 45 p.m. was made and the Treasury Officer informed of the same on the 13th January, 1972.

Facilities to Importers

1111. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the stoppage of U.S. aid to India, Government have stopped the facility of Letters of Credit to importers;

(b) the facilities to be provided to those importers who have already placed orders for import of goods from U.S.A.; and

(c) the facilities to be provided to those licence holders who have not opened their Letters of Credit for U.S.A. to import from other sources ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Government have stopped the facility of opening Letters of Credits against four U. S. non-project aid agreements (Nos. 386-H-200, 386-H-207, 386-H-212 and 386-H-601) as the utilisation of the amounts under these four agreements for which irrevocable letters of credit had not been established by December 6, 1971 was suspended unilaterally by the U. S. with effect from December 6, 1971.

(b) and (c). Alternative sources of financing are being arranged either from rupee payment areas or from other available credits and where imports have necessarily to be made from the United States, free foreign exchange is being released, to the extent possible.

Expansion of Foreign Firms

1112. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new formula for expansion of foreign firms has been drawn up;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement to the same ?