

**Exports of Coir Products**

4475. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coir products exports in terms of rupees is rising year by year since 1970-71;

(b) whether a few products of coir like rugs, carpets, mattings and ropes are exported or other items like coir yarn too are exported;

(c) whether Government expect to maintain this tempo of export in coming years; and

(d) which are the countries which import these items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The export of coir products has been as under:—

(Value in Rs. lakhs.)

	1970-71	1971-72	1972-7
		(upto Feb. 1973)	
Coir Yarn	66.36	722.42	735.15
Other Products e.g. rugs, carpets, Mattings, & ropes etc.	620.98	763.52	611.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1387.34</b>	<b>1485.94</b>	<b>1346.58</b>

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Major importing countries are U.K., U.S.S.R., U.S.A., France, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Hungary, Italy, and Netherlands.

**Market for Indian Tea in Lebanon**

4476. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lebanon is a good market for Indian tea;

(b) if so, whether adequate steps have been taken to capture this market; and

(c) what is the response and how much foreign exchange has been earned from there in 1970-71 and 1971-72?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Lebanon is not a big market for tea.

(b) Steps commensurate with the importance of the market are being taken up.

(c) There was no export of tea to Lebanon during 1970-71. However, a quantity of 27,000 kgs. of tea valued at Rs. 2,40,000 was exported during 1971-72.

**Air agreement with Switzerland**

4477. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS.

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO:

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

(a) whether India and Switzerland have entered into a new air agreement during February this year; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Consultations between the delegations of India and Switzerland were held in New Delhi in February, 1973. The agreed arrangement envisages operation of air services by Swissair to points in China through India beginning from April, 1974. Reciprocally, it provides for operation of air services by Air India through Switzerland to/through Madrid and if desired beyond to points in South America. From April, 1974 Swissair will also be able to operate some of their services with Boeing 747 or any similar type of aircraft providing similar or less capacity. These entitlements have been

agreed on the understanding that the commercial arrangements between the two airlines effective April 1973, shall continue.

#### Setting up of an Export Bank in India

4478. SHRI S. A. MURUGANAN-THAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a report embodying critical evaluation of the existing arrangements for financing exports the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has suggested the setting up of an Export Bank in India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The matter is under consideration.

#### Decision to set up a statutory accident investigation bureau

4479. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a statutory accident investigation bureau;

(b) if so, the reasons for reversing the earlier decision of not setting up such a body; and

(c) the constitution and functions of the bureau?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). The matter is under careful examination.

#### Suggestion made by F.I.C.C.I. regarding security against bank advances

4480. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested that industrial shares should be considered as sufficient security against bank advances; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). In July 1972, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry wrote to the Reserve Bank saying that the banks were hesitant to grant advances against shares and making certain suggestions for making available bank funds against approved securities. The Federation was advised that the existing guidelines relating to advances against approved shares were flexible and provided adequate freedom for making advances against shares for genuine investment and productive purposes. To clarify the position further to the banks the Reserve Bank advised them on January 17, 1973 that they should continue to extend credit against approved shares on merits and within the framework of the guidelines earlier issued on the subject. They should, however, ensure that the bank finance is not utilised for speculative or other antisocial purposes.

#### Delayed flights of Indian Airlines

4481. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Airlines flights are becoming more and more irregular and un-punctual;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and