

giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-5588/73.)

(c) Indian Airlines will endeavour progressively to restore its services when its fleet position improves. The service to Aurangabad will be resumed as soon as the airfield is repaired and becomes serviceable.

**Complaint against Air India Agents in Latin American Countries**

5192. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI VEKARIA:

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

(a) whether any complaint has been received by Government against Air India agents in Latin American Countries; and

(b) if so, what are those complaints and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) No such complaint appears to have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

**Proposal to open Air India Offices in Latin American Countries**

5193. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

SHRI VEKARIA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to open Air India Offices in Latin American Countries;

(b) if so, where and when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (c). No, Sir, Offices

in Latin America at present would not appear to be commercially justified, but the matter is kept under careful review.

(b) Does not arise.

**Remunerative Price of Raw Jute for Cultivators**

5194. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what "remunerative" price of raw jute he had in mind when he reportedly directed the Indian Jute Mills Association recently to make their fibre purchases at a level helpful to the cultivators;

(b) whether he warned the IJMA that in the event of their paying lower prices, the raw jute trade would be canalised; and

(c) if so, whether this is an empty threat in view of the Jute Corporation proclaimed intention to buy only between 10 to 15 lakhs bales in the current season?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) It has been suggested to the Jute Corporation of India that they should conduct their purchases of raw jute in conjunction with the industry in such a manner as to achieve on the average a price of Rs. 157.68 per quintal round the year

(b) No, Sir, no such warning was specifically given to the IJMA but they were told if they did not cooperate with Government in securing remunerative prices for the jute growers, Government would not remain a silent spectator.

(c) During the current season the Jute Corporation of India plans to purchase 12-15 lakhs bales of raw jute as a part of its commercial operations. In addition, about 5 lakh bales are proposed to be purchased for building up a buffer stock. It is envisaged that, over a period of time, the JCI will be in a position to take over the bulk of the trade in raw jute.