

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL  
AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHD):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fares have been increased by 25 per cent from 1-2-1974 on account of rise in fuel cost, insurance charges, landing fees and other airport charges, etc.

**Financial assistance to Bihar**

482 SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :

SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the present critical financial position of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to provide financial assistance to that state through the Reserve Bank of India.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.  
GANESH) : (a) and (b). The Government of Bihar had requested the Centre for assistance to meet its temporary ways and means difficulties in the months of January, February and March, 1974. The Government of India had agreed to assist the State by giving ways and means advance of Rs. 10 crores in December and advancing the payment of Central assistance for Plan and share in taxes amounting to Rs. 19 crores to February instead of March. Other than this, the repayment of loans to Centre in January and February has been rescheduled and the State Government allowed to repay the dues to the Centre in March, 1974.

**Newsprint Crisis**

483. SHRI DHAMANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how long the present alarming newsprint situation is expected to persist;

(b) what immediate steps are being taken or have been taken to ensure regular supplies of newsprint on short term as well

as long term basis so that the industry does not starve for want of newsprint; and

(c) whether Government concluded any agreement both on short term and long term basis with any foreign suppliers and if so, with what results ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C.  
GEORGE) : (a) The present shortage of newsprint is expected to last for another year or two.

(b) All possible efforts are being made to secure supplies of newsprint for immediate requirements. Long term contracts for 3 to 5 years are also being concluded with the foreign suppliers.

(c) The STC has entered into contracts for supply of 1,26,700 tonnes of newsprint in 1973-74. The Corporation has also concluded long term contracts with Canadian and USA suppliers for supply of about 60,000 tonnes for the next 3/5 years with option for supply of further 30,000 tonnes of newsprint subject to mutual agreement.

**Soiled currency notes in Delhi**

484. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI D. D. DESAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an influx of soiled currency notes in the country particularly in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether Commercial Banks in the Capital had to face more rejections by customers at the counters a few months back; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India had elucidated the reasons for the influx of soiled Notes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R.  
GANESH) : (a) There has been some increase in the circulation, rather than an influx of soiled notes, in and around areas of Bangalore, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Ahmedabad and Delhi.

(b) There has been no complaint from any Commercial Bank in Delhi about their customer's unwillingness to receive payment in reissuable notes fit for further handling.

(c) Owing to an inadequate supply of fresh notes from Currency Note, Press Nasik, the Reserve Bank's offices have been supplementing their stocks of fresh notes by salvaging maximum quantities of reissuable notes. The problem was aggravated by the strike for about a month from September, 1973 at the Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad. To deal with the situation, issue of fresh notes over Reserve Bank's counter has been made consistent with the stock position, the shortfall being made up by recycling the notes which can withstand further handling.

#### **Price and Production of Standard Cloth**

485. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the price of standard cloth manufactured by the mills; and

(b) whether Government have asked the mills to double the production of the standard cloth ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). The question of revision of the existing policy regarding price, production and distribution of controlled cloth is under consideration.

#### **Decline in India's share in world export trade**

486. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the problem of progressive decline in India's share in world export trade; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to arrest the decline which has assumed an alarming proportion ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). In accordance with the statistics published by the United Nations in their Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (which excludes trade of Centrally planned economies) the declining trend noticed in previous years in the India's share in world's exports has been arrested in 1972.

In order to increase India's share in world's exports the Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the production base, generate adequate export surpluses, remove various bottlenecks in the way of exports by providing essential raw materials, both domestic and imported, market intelligence, export finance etc. In selected cases compensatory cash support is also extended. In order to make the Indian products competitive in world markets, in addition, export duties are kept constantly under review and suitable adjustment are made from time to time as circumstances warrant.

#### **Hotel projects undertaken in Bihar**

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

(a) the number of hotel projects undertaken in the Central Sector in Bihar during 1972-73; and

(b) the reasons for delay in finalising these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) No hotel project was undertaken in the Central Sector in Bihar during 1972-73.

(b) Does not arise.