

Direct flights between Bhubaneswar and Delhi

577. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhubaneswar and Delhi are proposed to be connected by direct air flights; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). At present Indian Airlines have no plans to operate direct air service between Delhi and Bhubaneswar. However, the Corporation have already provided same day connection at Calcutta for passengers travelling between Delhi and Bhubaneswar and *vice versa*.

Assistance from U.N. Division of Narcotics

578. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance has been received by India from the U.N. Division of Narcotics to conduct research to improve the opium yield; and

(b) if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government of India have not received any financial assistance from the United Nations Division of Narcotics, to conduct research to improve the yield of opium.

However, Dr. V. S. Ramanathan, Chief Chemist, Central Revenues Control Laboratory, New Delhi had been offered by the United Nations a Special Service Agreement with the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, Geneva for the financial year 1975-76 in his personal capacity to conduct research on

opium poppy and opium. Dr. Ramanathan accepted the offer with the permission of the Government. He has so far received U.S. dollar 7,200 to meet the expenses of research conducted in the field and in the laboratory. The Agreement which was originally signed for one year ending on 31-3-1976 was extended upto 30-9-1976 and is likely to be further extended upto 31-3-1977.

Deposits and advances by Nationalised Banks

579. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the total deposits in nationalised banks up-to-date;

(b) the break-up of such deposits in different States;

(c) total advances made by such banks (up-to-date) and the percentage of population covered in the different States;

(d) whether the backward districts in the country which accounted for 57.3 per cent of the total population of the country shared only 18.1 per cent of the aggregate bank credit till June, 1973; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The available statewide data on deposits, number of borrowal accounts and outstanding advances of public sector banks, including nationalised banks, is set out in the Statement attached. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11073/76].

(d) and (e). Regional imbalances in matters of banking development do exist. However, these are outcome of a much wider and long term problem of imbalances in economic develop-