

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: May I know whether it is a fact that the relatives of some of the Managing Directors of nationalised banks have become directors of non-nationalised banks and, at their instance, profitable accounts are being shifted to non-nationalised banks? May I know whether the percentage of deposits in nationalised banks is maintained mainly due to Government patronage, both Central and State?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Well, I do not accept this assessment. On the question whether anybody related to the Chairman or Managing Director of the Bank has become a director of a non-nationalised bank, I cannot either accept it or deny it because I have no personal information and no such case has been brought to my notice. If the hon. Member has any information, I am prepared to look into it. Regarding the second part of the question the answer is "No, Sir."

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: May I know whether the various branches of the nationalised banks keep a register where they will enter the applications for loans which are entertained, the applications which are sanctioned or rejected, and the reasons therefor, so that a monthly statement could be given to the Government? In this way the people could know whether their applications have been rejected or kept pending and the village people or rural people will not be harassed by the behaviour of the bank employees.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I appreciate the point made by the hon. Member. Now this information do not come to the Government from the individual banks. Now when Government want the information they get it from the individual bank directly or through the Reserve Bank. I think it is a good suggestion. At least in the case of small borrowers some such information should be available with the banks.

Tourists visiting India during 1973-74

***366. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:**

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the number of tourists who visited India during 1973-74 and foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): The total number of tourists who visited India during the financial year 1973-74 is 408,121. It is estimated that foreign exchange earnings from tourism during this period amounted to about Rs. 67 crores.

श्री भगत राम मनहर : अध्यक्ष जी, यह निर्विवाद है कि पर्यटन आज दुनिया का प्रमुख व्यवसाय है। इससे देश को विदेशी मुद्रा का लाभ होता है। साथ ही विभिन्न देशों से परस्पर प्रेम और सद्भावना बढ़ती है। अभी के नियमों के अनुसार विदेशी पर्यटकों को अपने होटल विल का भुगतान फारेन एक्सचेंज में करना पड़ता है जिससे एजेंट लाभ उठाते हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय फारेन एक्सचेंज की सुविधा कुछ अधिकृत होटलों, पर्यटक एजेंटों, बड़े रेलवे स्टेशनों एवं कुछ खास दुकानों में उपलब्ध कराने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठा रहे हैं ?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: The facilities for money exchange have been made at many places. Except in the case of certain people who have been exempted from making payment in foreign exchange, all the foreign tourists are required to make payments in hotels in foreign exchange. As a result, to some extent the leakage of foreign exchange has been plugged. As the hon. Member knows, not only in hotels but in many other places facilities for money exchange have

been given and this has improved the situation and this has given more foreign exchange earnings from 1st November 1972 onwards.

International Flights via Calcutta

*387. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any international flight has been increased recently at Calcutta airport;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken any initiative to have dialogue with foreign airlines to operate flights via Calcutta; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) British Airways have stepped up their operations through Calcutta from 4 to 5 services per week.

(b) and (c). The Government of India will certainly welcome and encourage operation of scheduled air services by foreign carriers to/through Calcutta in accordance with their entitlements. However, it is for the airlines concerned to take the initiative in this regard in their best commercial judgment.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: The Calcutta international airport have recently built a new terminal building which I consider to be one of the best well-equipped buildings in India so far as international airports are concerned. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many international flights used to operate from Calcutta airport till 1968 and what are the basic reasons that almost all the international airlines, including Lufthansa,

K.L.M., Burma Airways, have withdrawn their flights from Calcutta airport. What effective steps the Government have taken in this regard to create an atmosphere to bring back the operation of these international flights from Calcutta airport?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: There are six international flights operating through Calcutta excluding Air India. Including Air India and Indian Airlines, it comes to eight. Earlier, in 1969, there used to be nine plus six, that is, fifteen international flights. One after another, they withdrew the flights on account of certain situation that was existing in that part of the country. The hon. Member knows how unsteady the political situation was during that time and how it did not give any convenience to the international flights also. Therefore, many of the Airlines withdrew their flights. I may tell the hon. Member that gradually, the traffic is picking up and the international traffic in Calcutta has risen from 164,813 in 1972 to 206,764 in 1973.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since she is aware of the fact that international flights are not operating in a big way from Calcutta airport, what was the basic reason behind the Ministry's thinking to construct a five-star hotel under the I.T.D.C. behind the terminal building and to make arrangements for Jumbo flights when the Air India Jumbo is not operating from that airport.

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: Air India Jumbo is not operating from there. There are six flights operating through Calcutta airport—three, east-bound and three west-bound. That requires accommodation also. Therefore the I.T.D.C. thought that accommodation near the airport was essential.

In the first part, of the question of the hon. Member, he asked why so