

construction of all categories of hotels and motels, and for the augmentation of tourist transport facilities at selected tourist centres. It also has plans to construct youth hostels and reception centres to facilitate travel within the country. The facilities so provided are intended to promote internal tourism as well.

(b) Yes, Sir, by way of granting loans for the construction of hotels and provision of transport facilities at these places.

#### Closure of Airways (India) Private Limited

\*288. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the closure of Airways (India) Private Limited, affecting 143 employees ;

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from the employees of this firm to take over the company ;

(c) whether Government have considered this issue ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Some communications were received from the employees asking that Indian Airlines be directed to absorb them. The Corporation is examining this matter in the light of available vacancies and the requisite job qualifications of the applicants.

#### Demonetisation of Currency Notes

\*290. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the question of demonetisation of currency notes of Rs. 10 and above denominations as a part of the drive against black money ; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The Government does not consider that demonetisation of currency notes provides the answer to the problem of black money. The Government is, however, constantly engaged in the task of detecting tax evasion, the principal source of black money. A Committee of Experts has been appointed by the Government with a view to suggesting legal and administrative measures for countering evasion and avoidance of direct taxes. Also under consideration are legislative and administrative measures to discourage undervaluation of property which is an important avenue for circulation of black money.

#### राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में कर्मचारियों की भर्ती

\*291. श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह विष्ट : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बैंकिंग आयोग ने सरकार को प्रस्तुत किये गये अपने प्रतिवेदन में अन्य बातों के अतिरिक्त राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में कर्मचारियों की भर्ती के बारे में भी कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं ;

(ख) क्या राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक उक्त आयोग द्वारा दिये गये सुझावों के अनुसार कार्य कर रहे हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने कर्मचारियों की भर्ती के बारे में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को कोई निदेश जारी किये हैं ?

#### वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण) :

(क) बैंकिंग आयोग ने अभी तक सरकार को अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश नहीं की है ।

(ख) यह प्रश्न उपस्थित नहीं होता ।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

#### Demand for C. B. I. Probe for issuing Permits to Private Bus Operators by Delhi Administration

\*292. SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Under-

taking Workers' Union has urged Government to order a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation for issuing permits to private bus operators at the time of the General Elections to Lok Sabha ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Central Assistance to Rajasthan for developing Tourist Facilities**

\*293. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the Central assistance given to the State of Rajasthan for developing tourist facilities during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) how much of this assistance has been earmarked for the development of places of tourist interest and tourist bungalows in Chittor ; and

(c) whether there has been any increase in the number of foreign tourists to Chittor during the last three years ?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):** (a) An expenditure of Rs. 1.82 lakhs and Rs. 5,000 was incurred in 1968-69 and 1969-70 respectively and a sum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs was sanctioned in 1970-71 on tourist schemes in Rajasthan.

(b) Nil.

(c) Tourist statistics are maintained on an all-India basis and not a State or place-wise basis. In the sample survey carried out in 1968-69, the number of foreign tourists visiting Udaipur, the tourist centre nearest to Chittor, was 1.8% of the total foreign tourist arrivals.

**Seizure of Smuggled Goods**

\*294. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the item-wise value of diamonds, gold and silver seized in various parts of the country during the last six months ;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection ;

(c) the steps taken against the offenders ; and

(d) the specific measures adopted by Government to check the rising trend of smuggling of these items ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):** (a) Diamonds valued Rs. 32 lakhs (approx.) at Indian market rate, gold valued Rs. 148 lakhs (approx.) at the international rate and Rs. 333 lakhs (approx.) at Indian market rate and silver valued Rs. 107 lakhs (approx.) at the Indian market rate were seized by the Customs and Central Excise authorities during the period from 1-11-70 to 30-4-71.

(b) and (c). 168 persons were arrested in this connection. Apart from the adjudication proceedings initiated under the Customs Act for confiscation of the smuggled goods and imposition of penalties on the offenders, in cases where sufficient evidence is available for successful prosecution, the offenders are prosecuted in a court of law.

(d) The following measures have been taken to prevent smuggling : systematic collection and follow-up of information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircraft and patrolling of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Customs Act, 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take special measures for the purpose of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and