

lations provide for discounted fares to groups travelling from India to specified destinations abroad. The salient features are given in the statement placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-539/71].

(b) Yes, Sir, Certain airlines are known to indulge in undercutting of air fares.

(c) The Aircraft Rules are being amended so as to make it obligatory for airlines to submit their tariff schedules to the Director General of Civil Aviation for approval. This will also provide for imposition of penalties for infringement.

A close watch is being maintained by the I.A.T.A. enforcement organisation as well as our own vigilance machinery.

SHRI C. CHITTIBABU : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister stated that the groups having sufficient affinity amongst the members and drawn from an association, a club or a school, etc., are offered this facility. Fifteen persons can join together and form a group and six months standing can be created. In view of this how the Air India is going to compete with unscrupulous airlines and travel agencies?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : As the hon. Member realises, it is very difficult to compete with airlines which are indulging in such malpractices. But by way of promotional airfare and encouraging air travel the group promotional fares are extended to affinity groups, students, scientists, etc. If members belonging to a club, organisation or some such association, come together and say that they want to travel on behalf of an organisation, they are entitled to it.

SHRI C. CHITTIBABU : It should be recognised.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : May I know whether it is in the notice of the Government that a number of complaints have been levelled against certain specific airlines which are indulging in all these malpractices, whether the Government of India is looking into this matter and, if so, what is the action proposed?

DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI : In the reply to the Original question itself I said that there

is a Directorate of Enforcement working under the I.A.T.A set up at Bombay which is looking into this whole thing and is imposing certain preventive and also punitive measures to check this. Secondly, there is going to be a cell under the DG CA in the Department of Civil Aviation. Thirdly, in the 1937 Aircraft Rules there is going to be a provision which will make it compulsory for every international air route to submit their tariff rates to the DG CA before they start operations.

अफीम की खेती

* 736. डा लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे :
श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत में अफीम की खेती केवल मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान के कतिपय जिलों तक सीमित है :

(ख) क्या बड़ी मात्रा में अफीम का निर्यात किया जाता है, जिसमें देश के लिए विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जन की जाती है;

(ग) किसानों को प्रति किलोग्राम अफीम के लिए कितना मूल्य दिया जाता है और इस का प्रति किलोग्राम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मूल्य कितना है; और

(घ) क्या अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंडी में विद्यमान उच्च मूल्य की दृष्टि से सरकार का विचार किसानों को दिये जाने वाले अफीम के मूल्य बढ़ाने का है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) In India cultivation of opium poppy is confined to certain districts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The quantity of opium exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years is as under:

Quantity of opium exported at 90° consistence in tonnes.		Foreign exchange earned (Rs. in thousands)	
(Calendar Year)		(Financial Year)	
1968	555	1968-69	4,77,29
1969	662	1969-70	6.63.04
1970	808	1970-71	8.03.35

(c) (i) The price of opium paid to the farmers for 1970-71 poppy season ranges from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 70/- per kilogram at 70° consistence depending on the average yield tendered by them.

(ii) Raw opium is transported to, and dried in Government factories. It is then sold to the foreign customers in the form of finished opium cakes (about 90° consistence); the present export price of this opium is U.S. dollar 1.80 per unit of morphine content, which works out to U.S. dollars 18.00 per kilogram equivalent to about Rs. 135/- per kilogram (as Indian opium generally contains about 10% morphine.)

(d) Price to be paid to the farmers is fixed every year a little before the commencement of the next crop season after taking into account all relevant factors, such as prices of other comparable crops in the area, export price of opium, general level of prices etc. The price for the next year will be fixed sometime in July-August, 1971.

डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि चूँकि अफीम से हमें बहुत मात्रा में विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है इसलिए क्या सरकार अफीम कल्टिवेशन के एरिया को बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है? यदि रखती है, तो कितना?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There is no proposal to increase the area of opium cultivation.

डा. लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे : अग्नी माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि विभिन्न वर्षों में

सरकार ने कितनी विभिन्न विदेशी मुद्रा का अर्जन किया? हमारे किसानों को दिया जाने वाला मूल्य 70 डिग्री घनत्व वाली अफीम के लिये 40 से 70 रु. है। उन्होंने यह भी बतलाया कि वह प्रति वर्ष इस का मूल्य निर्धारित करते हैं। लेकिन वास्तव में ऐसा होता नहीं है। क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसी समिति गठित करने वाले हैं जो कि किसानों के उपयोग में आने वाली चीजों के बाजार मूल्य के आधार पर इस का मूल्य तय करें। क्योंकि किसानों की लागत अफीम की खेती में अत्यधिक होती है और उन्हें मूल्य कम मिलता है?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There is no proposal to appoint any committee.

Hoarding of Small Coins

*737. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken to overcome the difficulties experienced by the people regarding the small coins; and.

(b) whether some people have started hoarding the small coins for profit making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) There is possibility of hoarding for profit making in such situations of shortages. Some seizures have been made in a few places. With increasing supplies, however, the tendency to hoard and the possibility of making a gain out of hoarding seem to be going down and they can be expected to diminish further in the next few months. The question of making melting of coins an offence in law is also being pursued.

STATEMENT

The various steps taken by Government to step up the production of small coins in the three mints of Bombay, Calcutta and Hyderabad were indicated in the reply given to Starred Question No. 147 and the supplementaries thereunder in the Lok Sabha on the 28th May, 1971. As a result of these measures, the daily rate of production had increased to over 50