

1	2	3	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	(1) Bhopal (4) Korba	(2) Indore (5) Nepanagar (3) Jabalpur
10.	Maharashtra	(1) Bombay	(2) Pune
11.	Orissa	(1) Cuttak	
12.	Punjab	(1) Ludhiana	
13.	Rajasathan	(1) Beawar	(2) Jodhpur (3) Kota
14.	Tamil Nadu	(1) Colmbatore	(2) Indunagar (3) Madras
15.	Uttar Pradesh	(1) Gorakhpur	(2) Kanpur (3) Saharanpur
16.	West Bengal	(1) Calcutta (4) Hooghly	(2) Durgapur (3) Howarh
Total		48	

Smuggling of Sandal Wood Oil

4700. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large quantities of Sandalwood oil is being smuggled from Calicut Airport; and

(b) if so, the details of the sandalwood oil seized from Calicut airport during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) and (b). There have been no seizure of sandalwood oil at Calicut Airport during last three years. Available reports do not indicate smuggling of sandalwood oil from Calicut Airport

Production of Opium

4701. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the opium production during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are aware that a large quantity of opium is being diverted to illicit channels as reported by the Narcotics Control Bureau in its report for the year 1994;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDERASHEKHARA MURTHY). (a) Production of opium in the country during the last three years was as follows :

Year	Opium produced/collected at 70C (In metric tonnes)
1991-92	63.5
1992-93	444
1993-94	546
Total	1625

(b) and (c). Government are aware that some unknown quantity of opium is getting diverted.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to curb diversion of licit opium. Some of these are :

- (1) The preventive set up of Central Bureau of Narcotics has been strengthened and reorganised.
- (2) The enforcement activities have been intensified in and around the growing areas. Additional communication facilities and motor vehicles have been provided to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement. Two sniffer dogs have also been deployed.
- (3) Government has been raising the minimum qualifying yield to be tendered by cultivators from year to year to ensure that the cultivators tender all yield to the Government and do not divert opium into illicit channels.
- (4) Collection and storage of opium is now done in specially designed plastic containers only instead of traditional vats.
- (5) Measurement of cultivators' fields are done under supervision of senior officers.

[Translation]

Refund of Income-Tax

4702. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints regarding the delay in the refund of income-tax;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into this matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate any such policy under which the refund of income-tax be made in a stipulated time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Some complaints have been received regarding the delay in granting of refunds under the Income-tax Act. After examining such complaints and also taking into account the factors contributing to the delays the following instructions have been issued :

- (i) as it was found that delays mainly occur due to the requirement of verification of arrears for the purpose of adjustment against the refunds due, prior verification of arrears has been dispensed with for issue of refunds upto Rs. 5000; only post-refund checks shall be carried out in such cases;
- (ii) the refund vouchers should be sent alongwith the orders giving rise to the refunds;
- (iii) surprise inspections should be carried out by the superior officers to ensure refunds are promptly granted; and
- (iv) strict action must be taken if any lapses are noticed.

(d) and (e). While, under the provisions of section 143 (1) (a) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the returns of income should be mandatorily processed within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year and the refunds if any arising therefrom granted, the Annual Action Plan targets formulated by the Income-tax Department stipulate that 90 per cent of the returns should be so processed within the relevant assessment year itself. Further, instructions also exist to the effect that refunds should be issued within 10 days of passing of the order giving rise to the refund.

[English]

Bank Dacoities in Bihar

4703. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the incidents of bank dacoity in Bihar are increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to check these incidents as well as for rewarding the citizens who are risking their lives to prevent such incidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The details of incidents of banks robberies and dacoities in Bihar reported by

public sector banks to Reserve bank of India (RBI) are as follows :

Year	Number of incidents	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1992	44+2 *	120.71
1993	46	78.55
1994	43	52.37

* Attempted
(Data provisional)

(c) and (d). Depending on the risk factor involved, such as location, cash handled, law and order situation, banks have taken several measures to strengthen security at their branches like provision of armed guards, installation of alarm systems etc. In order to motivate employees, police and general public to resist robberies/ dacoities, a scheme for giving reward is in operation under which cash rewards upto Rs.50,000/- can be given to those who actively resist bank robberies/ dacoities.

Performance of I.A. and A.I.

4704. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the performance of Indian Airlines and Air India has declined during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government have formulated and implemented any scheme to improve the performance of both the airlines; and
- (c) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the period 1992-93 to 1994-95, profit/loss of Air India/Indian Airlines was as under :

Year	Air India	Indian Airlines
1992-93	Rs. 333.14 crores (Profit)	Rs.195.16 crores (Loss)
1993-94	Rs.201.90 crores (Profit)	Rs.258.46 crores (Loss)
1994-95	Rs.26.49 crores (Provisional) (Profit)	Rs.234.55 crores (Loss)

(b) and (c). To meet the challenge due to reduction in market share, both airlines have taken steps for improvement of their functioning. Fleet of Air India is being modernised progressively. New destinations in South Africa, Indonesia and Australia have been added. Attention is also being given by the airlines for providing better facilities to passengers both on ground and in the air. Fare concession have been announced as well as introduction of promotional schemes.