

(b) whether the response to this scheme is not very encouraging;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have made any inquiry into this matter; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make the Scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The Government has not recently declared any Voluntary Disclosure Scheme for income tax payers. The government had declared the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Scheme in 1975. The government had also declared the Amnesty Scheme in 1985 for the income tax payers.

(b) to (e). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### Jute Exports

5450. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in its latest study on India's jute exports, the Export-Import Bank has voiced its concern over steady decline of India's jute goods in the world market and suggested measures including identification and development of technology for new value-Added products; and

(b) the steps which his Ministry is taking to spur jute exports to Europe, which is the largest market for jute products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). Exports of jute goods have shown an increasing trend during the last three years.

Government have undertaken a number of measures to boost the export of jute and jute goods to various markets including Europe, viz; participating in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets, liaising with importers and end users, funding R and D activities to develop a new range of diversified jute products to suit consumer preferences, External Market Assistance scheme, setting up of a National Centre for Jute Diversification, launching of a UNDP assisted National Jute Development Programme proportionately funded by the Government of India.

#### Purchase of New Aircraft

5451. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :  
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :  
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India propose to purchase some more aircraft;

(b) if so, the number and types of aircraft proposed to be purchased;

(c) the areas in which these new aircraft are likely to be utilised;

(d) the passenger capacity of these aircraft; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on the purchase of these aircraft and by when the delivery of the new aircraft is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). Government has not received any proposal from Indian Airlines for acquisition of new aircraft.

Government has already approved the proposal of Air India for the acquisition of two Boeing-747-400 aircraft, to be delivered in July/August, 1996. These aircraft will be deployed on the long haul routes. The seating capacity of each aircraft is 417; the total project cost of these two aircraft with spare engines, spares etc. is Rs. 1137.70 crores.

#### Grievances of Erstwhile Employees of New Bank of India

5452. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the merger of the New Bank of India (NBI) with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in September, 1993, employees of the erstwhile New Bank of India had launched a series of agitations to ventilate their grievances;

(b) if so, the details of their grievances;

(c) the details of the Memoranda submitted by Members of Parliament in this regard since the merger;

(d) whether the erstwhile employees of NBI have also approached the Courts for redressal of their grievances and discrimination meted out to them by the authorities of the PNB in regard to fixing their seniority and transfer policy vis-a-vis the employees of PNB; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to remove the grievances of the erstwhile employees of NBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Employees of the erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI) individually and through their unions/associations and Members of Parliament have represented to the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and the Government for redressal of their alleged grievances arising out of merger of the bank with Punjab National Bank. The major grievances are against :

(i) redeployment of surplus staff of ENBI;

(ii) reckoning of service in the scale/grade at the time of merger for the purpose of further promotion of the employees of ENBI, after amalgamation, in the ratio of 2:1;