

(b) whether printing equipments have been purchased for the above Press; and

(c) if so, the details of the machineries purchased alongwith the sources and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Capital expenditure approximately to the extent of Rs.45 crores has been incurred upto 30th June 1994 for the proposed New Note Printing Press, Mysore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production and Clearance of the Excisable Goods

878. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and clearance of excisable goods came to a standstill all over the country for about one and half months between March 1, and April 15, 1994;

(b) if so, the extent of fall in the production, clearance and revenue earning during this period;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

and (b). Excise duty collection for the period February, March and April, 1994 is given below:-

February, 1994	Rs. 2675.75 crores
March, 1994	Rs. 3827.60 crores
April, 1994	Rs. 2559.75 crores

The revenue collection in the month of April every year remains low as noticed from revenue collection trend in the past years. However, during April, 1994, the revenue collection has been higher by 20% when compared to revenue collection in the corresponding month of last year i.e. April, 1993 when the revenue collection was Rs. 2137.89 crores. The figures of revenue collection, therefore, indicate a significant upward trend during the period March 1 to April 15, 1994 as compared to revenue collection in February, 1994.

It would be evident from the increase in revenue collections that production and clearance had not been adversely affected during this period.

(c) to (e). Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Passenger Aircraft

879. SHRIMATI KRISHENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI AMARPAL SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:

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

(a) the total number of passenger aircraft available in the country;

(b) the number of private aircraft out of the above aircraft;

(c) the total number of aircraft available with the Indian Airlines, the Air India and the Vayudoot separately;

(d) whether the existing number of passenger aircraft is adequate in the

country to meet the requirement; and

(e) if not, the action taken to increase the number of passenger aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Information regarding aircraft carrying commercial passenger is as under:-

Total number of passenger aircraft in the country	Owned by private aircraft operators	Aircraft available with		
		AI	IA	VD
145	49	26	54	16

(d) and (e). The requirement of passenger aircraft is decided by the respective operators depending upon the traffic potential and commercial viability.

Air Services

880. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had recently conducted a survey in some States to assess the potentiality of the movement of international flights there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start some international flights in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the places identified therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). Air India recently conducted traffic surveys in Punjab and Gujarat. Hub and Spoke services connecting Ahmedabad and Amritsar to Bombay and Delhi respectively to Air India's international services have been started based on the results of these surveys. Subject to availability of sufficient traffic. Indian Airlines is proposing to operate international services from Bangalore.

[English]

Investment for strengthening Infrastructure for Exporting Alphanso Mangoes/Cashew

881. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1294 dated December 10, 1993 and state:

(a) the investment planned for strengthening the infrastructure for ex-