

of demand from Airlines operators, Airports Authority of India has no plan to upgrade this airport.

Sodhani Committee

8438. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a). whether the Sodhani Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(b). if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c). the steps being taken by the Government of implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). An Expert Group of Foreign Exchange Market in India was set up by the Reserve Bank of India on November 22, 1994 to examine issue relating to products available for hedging foreign exchange markets in India and the introduction of new derivative products. The Expert Group is chaired by Shri O.P. Sodhani, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India. The Expert Group has submitted its interim recommendations to the Reserve Bank of India. The final report of the Expert Group is yet to be submitted.

Seizure of Gold and Silver

8439. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the value of smuggled gold and silver seized at sea ports in Gujarat State during the year 1994 and 1995 till date;

(b) the number of persons arrested and action taken against them; and

(c) the concrete measures adopted by the Government to check the smuggling of gold and silver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No seizure of gold and silver has been affected at sea ports in the state of Gujarat during the year 1994 and 1995 till April, 1995.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent

smuggling including smuggling of gold and silver. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

Meetings of FIs with Foreign Investors

8440. DR R. MALLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meetings have been held between Financial Institutions like IDBI, IFCI and foreign investors in the last two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the gist of deliberations and the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Help by Airlines during Natural Calamities

8441. DR LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the names of such carriers, the services rendered by them and the details of flights organised to provide relief to earthquake victims at Latur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Air India had carried 633.90 tons of goods free of cost for use of earth-quake victims in Latur and Osmanabad. Indian Airlines has also arranged to carry relief material for the earthquake victims free of cost on board their services.

Relief material was also carried by foreign airlines/agencies, as per the details given below:-

<i>Source</i>	<i>Relief material carried (in tons).</i>
Liberian Airways Holland	37.378
US Air Force, USA	110.065
Luthvian Airways, London	40.044
Pakistan Air Force	24.200
Singapore Airlines	9.016
Others	99.467