

**Air India Flight to London Via Amritsar**

2341. DR. BALDEV PRAKASH:  
SHRI BHAGAT RAM;  
SHRI G. S. TOHRA:

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

(a) whether Government have received any communication from Chief Minister, Punjab to divert Air India flights to London via Amritsar; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The matter is under examination and the information will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha

**सावधि जमा राशि पर ब्याज की दर**

2342. श्री जगदीश प्रसाद साधु :  
क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हाल ही में एक वर्ष अथवा इससे कम अवधि की सावधि जमा राशि पर ब्याज की दर में कमी किये जाने के कारण बैंकों में जमा राशि पर प्रभाव पड़ा है, और

(ख) क्या बैंकों द्वारा लिये जाने वाले ब्याज की दर में वृद्धि की गई है और क्या सरकार का विचार बचत को प्रोत्साहन देने के उद्देश्य में जमा राशि पर ब्याज की दर में वृद्धि करने का है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) :

(क) 1 जून, 1977 से जमाओं पर ब्याज की दरों में किये गये परिवर्तनों का उद्देश्य मध्य और दीर्घ अवधि की बचत जुटाने को प्रोत्साहन देना है। इन दरों को 1 मार्च,

1978 से फिर संशोधित कर दिया गया है ताकि पूंजी बाजार में अपेक्षया अधिक निजी बचतों को प्रोत्साहित किया जा सके और अल्प, मध्यम और दीर्घ अवधि की जमाओं जैसी जमाओं की मात्रा में अपेक्षया अधिक समानता लायी जा सके। आकरें अब तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाये हैं ताकि इन परिवर्तनों को प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन किया जा सके।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

**Method for Disposal of Seized Goods lying in Customs Godowns**

2343. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:  
SHRI GANGA BHAKT  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seized goods worth Rs. 43 crores are lying in customs godowns;

(b) whether Government have devised any methods to dispose of these seized goods; and

(c) what is the item-wise break-up of the seized goods and the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (c). The stock of seized and confiscated goods lying in the Customs Godowns in December, 1977 is reported to be worth about Rs. 46 crores and itemwise break-up with value is indicated in Statement I.

(b) Seized and confiscated goods as stated in Statement II are being disposed of according to the existing procedure. The method of disposal of all other items is presently under the consideration of the Government. However, these items are being allowed to be disposed of to the military canteens.

*Statement—1*

Commodity	Value
(In Crores of Rupees)	
(a) Textiles . . . .	5.34
(b) Watches . . . .	4.13
(c) Gold . . . . .	10.46
(d) Silver . . . . .	3.25
(e) Diamond . . . . .	1.21
(f) Precious and semi-precious stones . . . . .	1.80
(g) Liquor . . . . .	0.58
(h) Radiant & Metallic Yarn	1.70
(i) Electronics goods :—	
(i) T. Va. . . . .	0.09
(ii) Calculators . . . .	0.89
(iii) Tape-recorders . .	0.11
(j) Other goods (like trade goods, vessels, vehicles etc.) . . . . .	17.26

*Statement II*

- (a) gold and silver;
- (b) currency (Indian and foreign);
- (c) trade goods;
- (d) vessels and vehicles;
- (e) precious and semi-precious stones other than diamonds;
- (f) fire arms and ammunition;
- (g) antiquities;
- (h) goods of Indian origin;
- (i) heterogenous items seized in small lots in the confiscated baggage (other than those covered by the provisions of Chapter IVA and section 123 of the Customs Act, 1962 and the notifications issued thereunder).

*Rate of Interest of Foreign Exchange in India*

2344. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of foreign exchange with the Indian and Foreign Banks in India as on 1st February, 1978;

(b) what is the rate of interest on Foreign Exchange in India paid by Foreign Banks and Indian Banks;

(c) whether there is any difference in the rate of interest and if so, what are the reasons thereof; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating so that Foreign Exchange is kept in the Indian Banks in India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (d). Under the existing regulations, all banks, both Indian and Foreign, are required to maintain only minimum working balances to meet their daily needs and any excess over their normal requirements is surrendered to the Reserve Bank of India. The foreign exchange reserves of the country are thus held by the Reserve Bank of India and these amounted to Rs 3959.3 crores on 1st February, 1978. The interest earned on these reserves, held abroad by the Reserve Bank, is estimated at Rs. 141.04 crores for the half year ending 31st December, 1977 yielding an average rate of 6.10 per cent. In view of the above, the question of taking any steps to keep foreign exchange reserves in Indian Banks does not arise.

*Number of Goldsmiths and Licensed Dealers*

2345. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of certified goldsmiths and licensed dealers in the country, State-wise;