

(d) steps taken for maintaining the time-schedule for both incoming and outgoing flights from Calcutta airport?

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

(b) Against a total number of 7356 take-offs during 1978, 3474 flights were delayed. Out of these, 2635 delays were due to the factors beyond the control of the Corporation like weather, etc. while 839 delays were on account of aircraft maintenance and operational and commercial reasons.

(c) and (d). It is the constant endeavour of the Corporation to minimise delays while ensuring the highest standards of flight safety. All controllable delays are regularly reviewed and remedial action taken where necessary.

Export of Groundnut through STC

7913. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the decision that exports of groundnut may be canalised through STC;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether the exporters have resented this more;

(d) if so, the main reasons for their objection; and

(e) whether Government has also decided that all exports of edible oil should be handled through STC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) Export of edible oils from India is not ordinarily being allowed.

Enbloc Reservation of Seat by Traveling Agencies for flights to Gulf Countries

7914. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traveling agencies are allowed to reserve seats enbloc in Indian Airlines and Air India flights to Gulf countries from Trivandrum without proper names and passport numbers;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that this enbloc reservation leads to black marketing of tickets and other evil practices; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by Air India and Indian Airlines, Travel Agencies are not permitted to reserve seats enbloc.

Dantwala Committee Report on Regional Rural Banks

7915. SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dantwala Committee Report has recom-

mended setting up of more Regional rural banks in the country;

(b) whether this recommendation has been accepted by the Government; and

(c) if so, how many regional rural banks have been opened in view of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Based on an assessment of the performance of Regional Rural Banks, the Dantwala Committee has recommended that more rural banks should be opened taking into account the existing cooperative structure, the network of commercial banks' branches, the credit gap and similar other relevant factors.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Twelve locations were recently approved for setting up new Regional Rural Banks. Eight new Regional Rural Banks have already been established by the end of March, 1979 and action in respect of others is also being taken.

Financial assistance asked for by State Government of Orissa

7916. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa have asked the Centre for financial assistance for the Bhim-Kund project in order to meet the power shortage in the Bengal-Bihar industrial belt; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) The Government of Orissa represented to the Planning Commission and

the Ministry of Energy that the Bhim-kund project should be financed by the Central Government as part of the Centre's Plan.

(b) The State Government was informed that it would be appropriate first to establish the techno-economic viability of the project before examining the question of funding, execution and other allied matters. The project report is being examined by the Central Water Commission and the Central Electricity Authority, and replies from the State Government to the comments of the Central Water Commission and the Central Electricity Authority are awaited.

World Bank Assistance for Narmada Project

7917. SHRI CHHABIRAM ARGAL:

SHRI RAGHAVJI:

SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is contemplating to pose Narmada Project for World Bank Assistance;

(b) does the Project include all those developments on the Narmada River System which have been proposed by Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) will it be ensured that any external financial assistance that is received for Narmada Development is earmarked to the States 'concerned in the ratio of the allocation of Narmada Waters as per Tribunals' Award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c). The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal submitted its report to the Central Government in August, 1978. The Central Government and the State Governments of Gujarat,