

Proposal to appoint a Commission to go into the causes of Labour unrest in Indian Airlines

*153. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a commission to go into the causes of labour unrest in Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, composition of such a commission?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No such proposal is being considered.

(b) Does not arise.

India's Trade with Persian Gulf States

*154. SHRI BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn a new export strategy keeping in view various aspects of India's trade with the Persian Gulf States; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). Government are formulating an export strategy for expanding India's exports to West Asian countries in general, including Gulf countries. Following are some of the main proposals being considered to increase our exports to these countries:

- (1) Exchange of delegations of businessmen, Chambers of Commerce and others;
- (2) Institutionalising of our economic relations by concluding trade agreements with these countries;

(3) Arranging/participating in exhibitions in this region;

(4) Conducting specialised studies for identifying fields of economic and industrial collaboration;

(5) Providing adequate and regular shipping facilities;

(6) Strengthening of our Commercial Missions;

(7) Expanding our banking activities in these countries;

(8) Opening of offices by Indian export houses, public and private sector organisations;

(9) Earmarking special export quotas for some commodities like rice and sugar for these countries.

Hindustan Lever Limited

*155. SHRI LAMBODAR BALIYAR: SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., a subsidiary of Unilever, with 85 per cent foreign and 15 per cent Indian equity, is taking shelter as a core item synthetic detergent producing company to escape the 40:60 guidelines laid down by Government, even though no foreign collaboration, financial or technical, is considered necessary under list II of the February, 1973 regulations; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). Under Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, M/s. Hindustan Lever will require the approval of the Reserve Bank of India for carrying on its existing activities in India and will have to submit an application to the Bank within

a period of 180 days from 1st January, 1974, the date on which the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act came into force. No such application from the Company has been received so far by the Reserve Bank. As and when the same is received, necessary action will be taken in accordance with the guidelines, a copy of which was laid on the Table of this House on 20th December, 1973, and keeping in view the nature of its activities.

Permitting Large Industrial Houses to Enter Textiles

*156. SHRI M. SUDARSANAM :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to allow large industrial houses to enter into textiles industry; and

(b) if so, the reasons that prompted Government to reverse their earlier decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). Under the current industrial licensing policy "textiles" is not an item which is normally open to large Houses and/or units registered or registerable under the MRTP Act, 1969 unless the production is predominantly earmarked for exports. This policy has been followed in the matter of grant of industrial licences for expansion of loomage in the cotton textile industry.

Discontinuation of Bus Services by Indian Airlines from City Offices to Airports and Vice-Versa

*157. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER :
SHRI B. V. NAIK :

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

(a) whether Indian Airlines has stopped the bus services from city offices to airports and vice-versa; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes Sir, at the four main stations of Indian Airlines at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras as well as at Hyderabad.

(b) Provision of surface transport cannot strictly be deemed to be the function of an airline which has essentially to concern itself with the provision of safe and efficient air transport. Accordingly, most of the airlines in the world, particularly those operating through India, do not provide surface transport for the passengers. Indian Airlines also have therefore decided to concentrate on its main and exclusive function of providing satisfactory air transport service in the country. The provision of surface transport for passengers has to be undertaken by established transport operators on payment. The question of provision of such service is receiving the attention of the Indian Airlines and the International Airport Authority of India jointly.

Augmenting Exports to Oil Producing Countries

*158. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the energy crisis in the world will force a structural change on trade relations of India; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is considering proposals for augmenting exports to the oil producing countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir, to the extent this is necessary and feasible to be able to pay for the rising import bill.

(b) Yes, Sir, to these countries and to others as well.