

(d) whether Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) has signed a contract with Vietnam Railways for export of air conditioned and ordinary sleeper coaches; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) A Committee headed by Chairman, Railway Board has been set up to promote export of both new as well as second hand rolling stock.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for leasing of 5 diesel locomotives to Bangladesh. M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd., has been nominated to negotiate the matter with the Bangladesh Railways.

(d) and (e). M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. have signed a contract with Vietnam Railways for supply of 15 coaches (10 MG A/c Sleeper and 5 ordinary sleeper coaches) to be manufactured by Integral Coach Factory, Madras.

Palmolein Oil

*37. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the State Trading Corporation to import another 1.5 lakh tonnes of palmolein oil at a concessional duty of 20 per cent;

(b) if so, whether this was in addition to the quantity which remained unutilised during 1993-94;

(c) whether the Government have decided to supply this quantity through PDS;

(d) whether the NDDB has also been allowed such type of import; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the import of palmolein has helped in meeting the demands of the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c). The State Trading Corporation has been requested to import 1.58 lakh MT palmolein during the current financial year 1994-95 at concessional import duty of 20 per cent for supply to States/UTs under the Public Distribution System. This stock is inclusive of the balance quantity of palmolein that was not imported during 1993-94.

(d) NDDB has been permitted on account of import of 50,000 MT of palmolein at 20% import duty.

(e) Import of palmolein is resorted to for meeting shortages arising out of gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country and ensure availability of edible oils at reasonable prices to the consumers through the Public Distribution System.

Forest Cover

*38. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN
SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: