

availability and requirement and in such circumstances how handloom industry would be sustained.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: It is true that production of cotton has come down in the country during the last two years. That is why we have tried to support the weavers by way of providing protection to them. The arrival of cotton has just started. As I have stated earlier and as the hon'ble Member is also aware that presently we require 130-132 lakhs bales of cotton. I have also stated in my reply that how much quantity of cotton would be required by the mills in the country by the end of the December and till January. The requirement of cotton in the country during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was 111 lakh, 125 lakh and 128 lakh bales respectively. And this year we require 130-132 lakh bales. I hope that more quantity of cotton would be available in the country and we will try to keep it under control.

As regards the point that last year the production of cotton was less, we have taken several precautions, to ensure sufficient availability of cotton. The Government have allowed free import of cotton under the OGL so that our weavers do not have to face the scarcity of cotton and they may not starve for want of it. They may import as much cotton under OGL as they desire. Similarly we have tried import viscose at zero rate of duty.

Traders also create havoc in the market. They hoard stocks of cotton and then increase its prices. Only three days ago the rate of candy was increased to Rs. 2000/-, we intervened and brought into force the Stock Control Order on 7th and immediately the rate came down by more than Rs. 1000/-. By keeping the supply under control we are trying to ensure adequate supply of cotton to the mills in the country as per their requirements.

One thing more which I specifically want to tell in the House is that 83 new spindling mills have come to existence in our country this year. With the result the capacity of spindles which was 28.09 million has now increased to 29.05 million. Similarly the capacity of rotors which was earlier 1,27,000 has now increased to 1,46,000. Due to increase in the number of industries more quantity of cotton is required and we are making efforts to ensure that full capacity of cotton production is utilised. Government is confident that this situation will be fully under control.

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has himself admitted that the production of cotton has come down during the last two years and the cotton crop had been pest infested. Will you consider to provide interest-free loan to the farmers to buy pesticides through various agencies such as Cotton Corporation of India.

Apart from this I would also like to know whether any problem is being faced by textile mills and traders of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab etc. in the procurement of cotton as a result whereof the textile mills of northern region, East India Cotton Association and Indian Cotton Federation have asked to boycott the purchase of cotton. If it is so the prices of the Cotton

will come down drastically in the northern region and the farmers will have to fear heavy losses. In this regard what the hon'ble Member would like to state.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to the first part of the question. You can reply to the last part of the question.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Sir, the prices of cotton in Punjab are 125-130 per cent higher than the support prices. It is 87-96 percent higher in Madhya Pradesh, 84 per cent higher in Gujarat, 62.5 per cent higher in Andhra Pradesh and farmers are getting over 100 per cent more than the support price in Karnataka.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: If the hon'ble Member would mention the name of a particular agency I would be able to say something. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

[Translation]

SHRI KESHRI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is not correct. This question is related to the farmers of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Question Hour is over. This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Earnings of AI and IA

*46. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

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

(a) whether the foreign airlines operating in the country have made considerable dent in the earnings of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the estimated loss in the revenue earnings of Air India and Indian Airlines on this account during 1992-93, 1993-94 and thereafter;

(c) the details of sectors IA and AI which have shown revenue shortfall; and

(d) the measures taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) While the market share of Air India in the Indian air market has declined with the increased operations of foreign airlines, no reduction in the revenue earnings of

Air India has been noticed in 1993-94 compared to 1992-93. In the year 1994-95 also, no significant reduction in revenue earning is expected. Operation of foreign carriers does not adversely affect the earnings of Indian Airlines.

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) With a view to increase its market share, Air India has taken steps in some critical areas namely:—
- (1) Fleet modernisation — induction of four new Boeing 747-400 aircraft.
 - (2) Four new destinations have been added namely; Dar-es-salaam, Durban, Johannesburg and Jakarta.
 - (3) A Product Excellence Action Plan to improve the product and enhance the service to customers has been drawn up.
 - (4) Hub and spoke operations with Indian Airlines aircraft have been introduced to provide swift and immediate connections to passengers travelling from interior domestic points like Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Amritsar.
 - (5) Air India and Indian Airlines have established a joint frequent flyer programme for the purpose of earning mileage points on either or both the airlines and combined destination network within and outside India for the Indian travellers. A computerised Reservation System has been commissioned with Indian Airlines to provide necessary travel information, hotel bookings, car rentals etc.

Resignations by Pilots, Commanders and Engineers

*47. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:

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

- (a) whether the experienced pilots, commanders and engineers of the Indian Airlines and the Air India have been leaving their jobs and joining air taxi operators/foreign airlines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years and current year so far, separately, in IA and AI;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the effect thereof on the operational performance of these airlines;
- (e) the preventive steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Indian Airlines management has submitted a plan in this regard to the Government; and
- (g) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has been experiencing large scale resignation/voluntary retirement of its Pilots and Engineers. During the period

1991 upto November, 1994, 146 pilots have resigned and 18 have sought voluntary retirement; during the same period 80 Engineers have resigned and 14 have sought voluntary retirement.

In the case of Air India, the number of Pilots and Engineers leaving the organisation is not high. During the period 1991-92 upto October, 1994, 12 Pilots, 18 Technical Officers and 9 Engineers have resigned from Air India.

- (c) Higher emoluments paid by Air Taxi operators/foreign airlines is the main reason for the flight of personnel.
- (d) Shortage of qualified engineers have reduced the availability of Indian airlines aircraft for scheduled operations and shrotage of aircrew has affected its flight operations. There has been no adverse effect on Air India's scheduled operations due to the resignation of Pilots/Engineers.

(e) Following steps have been taken to prevent the exodus of pilots/engineers.

- 1 Indian Airlines has increased the notice period for resignation from 1 month to 6 months, and the provision for salary in lieu of notice period has been withdrawn.
- 2 DGCA has issued instructions that Air Taxi Operators can employ only such person who have obtained No-objection certificate from their employer.
- 3 Indian Airlines has increased the value of the bond from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 10 lakhs.
- 4 An understanding has been reached with some foreign airlines not to employ Indian Airlines pilots without consulting the management.
- 5 Productivity linked agreements have been entered into with pilots/engineers.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Foreign Aid

*48. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a huge amount of foreign aid is lying unutilised since 1990-91;
- (b) if so, the details of inflow of aid and utilisation thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not utilising the aid; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the speedy and proper utilisation of foreign aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

- (a) The statement showing the undrawn balances of externally aided projects since 1990-91 is as follows:—