

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) :

1. A per information available with the concerned Export Promotion Councils, no specific report has so far been received by them in this regard.
2. Recognising the importance of proper packaging of export products to safeguard contents from damages in transit, Export Promotion Councils and other institutions encourage Indian exporters through Training Programmes, Seminars, Workshops and Exhibitions to improve the quality of packaging to be of international standards. The Indian Institute of Packaging provide technical consultancy and testing services on packaging. In particular, the Institute of Packaging has evolved packaging systems for garments in association with the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) and a code of practice for export of machine tools in collaboration with the Indian Machine Tools Manufacturers Association. In addition, the Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has developed standard packaging for a number of fresh fruits and vegetable products.
3. The various Export Promotion Schemes also enable exporters to avail the latest packaging equipment and raw-materials at concessional/zero duty for improving packaging of export items.

Surplus Land of National Textiles Corporation

333. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total area of surplus land disposed by various National Textile Mills in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last two years, mill-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the criteria applied for disposal of the land; and
- (c) the total amount realised as sale proceeds from these disposals.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a). No land has been sold by NTC Mills during the last two years.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Sale of Cars by AI

334. SHRI SANTAKUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Air India have sold out cars at throw away price to its retiring officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the rules and practice for the disposal of the used cars of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). The decision of the Air India Board permitting retention of cars by retiring executives has been stayed. Instructions have also been issued to take back cars already given to retired executives, if any.

(c) The practice followed by Air India for disposal of used cars is as under :-

Once the decision for scrapping the cars is taken by the competent authority, M/s Metals Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC), a Government of India undertaking with whom Air India has entered into a contract, handles the disposal of old/used cars of Air India. Public advertisement is issued in newspapers and sales offers received by M/s Metals Scrap Trade Corporation are scrutinised and evaluated by Air India. The cars are sold to the highest bidder, through M/s MSTC Ltd.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Airports in Gujarat

335. SHRI N.J. RATHVA :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Gujarat for modernisation of airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether any time frame has been fixed for completion of the work this year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). The State Government of Gujarat have requested the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for extension of runway of Ahmedabad airport from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft. and for taking over of Surat airport for its upgradation.