

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.

AAI has requested the State Government to acquire about 100 acres of land at Ahmedabad airport for the runway extension.

Surat airport belongs to the State Government of Gujarat. Keeping in view the availability of funds and priority of projects taken/to be taken, it is not possible for AAI to take over this airport for its upgradation.

### Debt Burden

336. MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) year-wise amount of interest paid by the Union Government on the domestic and foreign loans, separately, during the last three years;

(b) the year-wise amount of interest which was to be paid during the above period, but could not be paid in time and the reasons for not making the payment thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the expenditure on the payment of interest on such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a). The amount of interest paid by the Union Government on the domestic and foreign loans during the last three years is given below year-wise :

	(Rs. crore)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (RE)
Interest on Internal debt and other liabilities	27546	33016	39890
Interest on external debt	3529	3724	4110
Total	31075	36740	44000

(b). Government has not defaulted on paying the interest dues on its borrowings.

(c). As part of its efforts to reduce the burden of interest and principal repayments on debt, Government is seeking to reduce its fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit which was 8.4 percent of GDP in 1990-91, 7.7% of GDP in 1993-94 and 6.7% of GDP in 1994-95 (RE) has been kept at 5.5% of the GDP in 1995-96(BE). This reduction will have a positive impact on Government interest liability. Reduction in the rate of inflation will also help to reduce interest rates in general and interest liability on new government debt.

[English]

### Decline in Price of Coffee in International Market

337. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in the prices of coffee in the international market as a result of good crop in Brazil ;

(b) if so, the impact of this fall on price of Indian coffee in the international market as well as domestic market;

(c) the fall in price per kilo in the country;

(d) whether the Government envisage further fall in the price of coffee; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to prevent further fall in the prices of coffee which will adversely affect the small and medium farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Due to reported crop loss in Brazil owing to frost, there was an unprecedented rise in the international price of coffee in 1994 reaching a peak of 220.10 US cents/lb for Arabica in September, 1994 from a level of 71.21 US cents/lb for Arabica in January, 1994. While official estimates about coffee production in the current season in major coffee-producing countries are not available, there have been no reports of any significant crop loss in any of these countries. Due to steady supply of coffee in the international market, the prices had come down to a level of 129.92 US cents/lb for Arabica in the international market in the first week of July, 1995 but have since shown a modest upward trend and are currently hovering in the range of 140 to 150 US cents/lb for Arabica. Domestic as well as export prices of Indian coffee have been influenced by the price behaviour in the international market. The details of prices of coffee seeds in the domestic market over the last four months are as follows:

Monthly Average Price	Plantation (A)	Arabica Chy.	Robusta Chy.
(IN RUPEES PER KG.)			
April	130	108	103
May	121	111	98
June	109	103	91
July	97	89	85

While no further sharp fall in the price of coffee in the international market is envisaged, price trends in the domestic and international markets are being monitored closely for appropriate action as and when required.