

lakh tonnes in 1990-91 in SAIL plants due to coking coal shortage, poor quality and blend fluctuations.

(d) Steps taken to improve coking coal supply include constant interaction with Coal India Limited, import of coking coal and its better management and constant monitoring of railway movement of coal.

The steps taken for increasing steel production include:

Modernisation of steel plants and improved maintenance of plant and equipment for achieving increased productivity.

Monitoring of supply of inputs, particularly coal and power, to the steel plants for ensuring uninterrupted production.

Increase in captive power generation.

Adoption of better technological and manpower discipline in SAIL plants.

Delicensing of the steel sector, with certain conditions where substantial foreign exchange is involved, so as to allow establishment of new plants in the private sector.

Security of Passengers on Trains in Punjab

1230. SHRI UDAYSING RAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the mass killings of the railway passengers in Punjab during June, 1991, and

(b) if no, the steps being taken by the Union Government for the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Security has been provided to the running trains and at Railway stations and patrolling of railway-tracks has been intensified.

Expansion of Indian Telephone Industries Unit at Palakkad

1231. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have plans to expand or modernise the Indian Telephone Industries Unit at Palakkad in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work for expansion of capacity from 1.5 lakh lines to 2.6 lakh lines is in progress. Also it is proposed to modernise the plant to produce E10B Electronic Switching Equipment to latest technology during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Parity in the rates of Sales Tax

1232. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the statement implementing the assurance given to Unstarred Question No. 2389 on August 23, 1990 and state:

(a) the details of the progress made in the matter of bringing about parity in the rates of sales tax on vehicles such as cars, buses and trucks;

(b) whether the Delhi Administration propose to take up the matter of bringing about parity in the rates of sales tax in the North Zone as a whole in respect of all the items to check the evasion of sales tax; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The Delhi Administration has reported that the matter has been taken up for inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Regional Council for North Zone. Consistent with the need to maintain the distributive character of Delhi's trade, the Delhi Administration is inclined to have uniformity in sales tax rates in the North Zone to the extent possible.

Increase in Prices of Edible oils

1233. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board have increased the prices of edible oils;

(b) if so, the number of time the prices were increased during the last one year, brand-wise;

(c) the financial assistance/subsidy given to NDDDB by the Union Government during the last year;

(d) whether the Union Government exercise any control over NDDDB with regard to fixation of prices of edible oils; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the number of times the prices were increased during the last one year are enclosed in the statement.

(c) No financial assistance/subsidy was given to NDDDB by the Union Government during the last year for NDDDB's activities in the oilseeds/ edible oil sector.

(d) and (e) NDDDB has been given full functional autonomy under the terms and conditions of market intervention operations approved by Government of India in April, 1989.

STATEMENT

1 Litre Dhara Refined Mustard Oil

<i>Date of Revision</i>	<i>Previous Price (Rs.)</i>	<i>Revised Price (Rs.)</i>
29-10-90	24.50	26.00
01-01-91	26.00	28.00
13-06-91	28.00	31.00

200 ml Dhara Refined Mustard Oil

The 200 ml pack was launched in September, 1990. The first price revision was on 13-6-91, when the launch price of Rs. 5.50 was revised to Rs. 6.00 per pack.

5 Kg. Refined Mustard Oil

<i>Date of Revision</i>	<i>Previous Price (Rs.)</i>	<i>Revised Price (Rs.)</i>
29-10-90	133.00	150.00
25-3-91	150.00	165.00