

1	2
	Bikaner Jaisalmer Jodhpur Nathdwara
Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri Kumbakonam Tirunelveli
Uttar Pradesh	Banda Lakhimpur
West Bengal	Balurghat Kharagpur Krishnanagar Shantiniketan
Pondicherry	Pondicherry

#### Shortage of Kerosene

1816. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that supply of Kerosene is extremely less in Fair Price Shops and Consumers Stores are selling the same to petty Kerosene dealers/sellers at a higher prices;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for shortage of Kerosene as a whole; and

(c) the precautionary measures being taken to stop the black-marketing of kerosene by consumer stores particularly in Indore, Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV)

(a) to (c). Government allocates kerosene to States on the basis of availability, past trends in offtake and other relevant factors. The operational aspects of Public Distribution System (PDS) including inter-district/inter-regional allocation, opening of kerosene oil depots, enforcement measures, ensuring availability at the Fair Price Shops etc. are within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Govt./UT Admns. Central Government, on its part, makes all efforts to maintain regular supply of kerosene to all States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh for distribution within the State.

State Govt./UT Admns. have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act, etc. to take action against persons indulging in malpractices such as blackmarketing. The Central Government also reviews the implementation of PDS with the State Govt./UT Admns. including Madhya Pradesh from time to time.

[Translation]

#### Functioning of Indian Airlines and Air India

1817. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the functioning of Indian Airlines and Air India.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to reduce the extra unproductive expenditure of the above organisations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if ratio of such expenditure estimated in each of the above organisations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to expand their services and improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and increase their revenues. Steps are also being taken to reduce the non-operating and operating costs. A Committee has been constituted by the Government to make recommendations on reorganisation of routes operated by Air India and Indian Airlines and possible code sharing between the two air lines.

(e) During 1994-95, the non-operating expenses of Air India and Indian Airlines (as a percentage of total expenses) were 5.48% and 11.09% respectively. During 1995-96 this figure reduced to 4.65% for Air India and 10.31% for Indian Airlines.

#### Telephones Out of Order

1818. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of telephones remained out of order/dead in the country which take a lot of time to set them right.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme so that complaints are attended to rectified expeditiously;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said scheme likely to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir, the telephones are repaired promptly.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken for attending the complaints expeditiously :-

- (i) Computerisation of fault repair system.
  - (ii) Use of modern testing instruments for localizing and rectifying the faults on telephone cables
  - (iii) All efforts are being made to reduce the number of faults which include introduction of ducts, use of jelly filled cables, use of reliable transmission media, upgradation of external plants, etc.
- (e) Improvement of maintenance is a continuous process. The improvement are being brought about effectively and systematically.

[English]

#### Sale of Essential Commodities

1819 SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :-

(a) whether permission has been given to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the sale of essential commodities outside the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on the prices on wheat in open market;

(d) whether the above decision has encouraged smuggling of foodgrains on Indo-Nepal border; and

(e) if so, the steps being proposed to stop such smuggling and to stabilise wheat prices in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b) No such permission has been given to Government of Uttar Pradesh. However, there are no restrictions on inter-state movement of wheat from Uttar Pradesh. Wheat is a delicenced commodity in U.P. since January, 1995.

(c) The Government of U.P. has reported the following average wholesale Price of wheat :-

2.1.1996	Rs. 451/- per quintal
1.5.1996	Rs. 403/- per quintal
3.6.1996	Rs. 423/- per quintal
12.7.1996	Rs. 480/- per quintal

(d) In view of answer to part (a) & (b) above question does not arise.

(e) The State Government has taken steps to increase the availability of foodgrains in Public Distribution and Revamped Public Distribution. During June, 1996, the off-take of wheat has gone up to 55% of allocation against average off-take of about 3% during 1995 in the PDS. The off-take under RPDS has also

increased to about 85% of allocation in June. The Food Department of Government of U.P. operates 13 check posts to check illegal movement of foodgrains.

#### Withdrawal of Air Services

1820 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :-

(a) whether his Ministry has withdrawn Air services from some routes during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far;

(b) if so, the details of such routes;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce flights in some of these routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Depending upon commercial viability, the air lines introduce new services or withdraw from the existing routes/sectors. However, the flight schedules of operators are approved, subject to their fulfilling route dispersal guidelines laid down by the Government.

#### Unemployed Blinds

1821 SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWARJ : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of educated blind unemployed persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments and the Union Governments do not provide jobs to them as per the reservation quota;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering a proposal to provide jobs to these educated blind persons according to their qualifications;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) According to the Ministry of Labour, DGE & T, the Live Register of the Special Employment Exchanges for the physically Handicapped persons does not have a separate category for educated blinds. State-wise number of unemployed blind persons, both educated and uneducated, on such register is enclosed as statement.

(b) Associations/Organisations of the Blind has been making representations that the reservation quota for the blind is not being filled up.

(c) to (e) With the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, statutory provision has been made that every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of