

travel by international tourists within the country enabling them to visit as many tourist centres as possible within the period of their stay in India.

12. Organisation of special cultural programmes, *son-et-lumiere* spectacles, and package tours for travel within India generally or to specific places are yet some more facilities provided to cater to the requirements of international tourists.

Claims filed by Vanaspati Units with State Trading Corporation

3662. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in "Hindustan Times" dated the 25th May, 1977 under the caption "Six Vanaspati Units file claims with S.T.C."; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two rakes of Palm Oil had arrived in Kanpur in March, 1977. While the oil was being heated for melting before deliveries, a leak developed in the heating coils at the depot of M/s. Ganesh Flour Mills, Kanpur, STC's handling agent and a Govt. owned vanaspati factory. As soon as the facts were brought to STC's notice, further deliveries to vanaspati units were stopped.

2. Only four units have so far filed their claims with the STC. The total quantity of moisture involved is 30 MT against the delivered quantity of about 1200 MT. Samples of the affected oil have been analysed. In the light of the analysis report the claims of the parties are being examined. So far only one party has mentioned the value of their claim and put it at Rs. 91,000/.

3. According to the analysis report received from STC from recognised laboratories the moisture content is excessive. However, excessive moisture content does not render oil unfit for human consumption. M/s. Ganesh Flour Mills, Kanpur offered to lift the balance quantity of the Palm Oil and it was delivered to them.

Merger of Sales-Tax with Excise Duty

3663. SHRI MADHVARAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from Bihar Paper Merchants' Association regarding merger of sales-tax with excise duty on paper and paper board items; and

(b) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present levy of Additional excise duty in lieu of sales-tax is applicable only to textiles (other than silk fabrics) tobacco and sugar. The question of extending the scheme to other commodities had been considered earlier but the State Governments had opposed the proposal. The indirect Taxation Inquiry Committee is now reviewing the structure of all the indirect taxes—Central, State and Local. The question of replacement of sales tax by additional excise duty will be considered again in consultation with the State Government as early as possible.

Minor Irrigation Schemes Financed by Agriculture Refinance Development Corporation Madhya Pradesh

3664. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the minor irrigation schemes in Madhya Pradesh financed by the Agriculture Refinance-