

2. While clearing flights DGCA will make a specific mention as to whether refuelling is permitted or not.
3. In case of International flights fuel uplift will be limited to the minimum fuel required for operation of the next sector.

#### Fall in Oil Prices

483. SHRI SHANTARAM  
POTDUKHE:  
SHRI ANAND SINGH:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been a slump in the oil prices in the world market during the last month;

(b) whether India took benefit of this oil price crash by buying oil and petroleum products from the spot market and struck any bargain with the OPEC and non-OPEC countries for term contracts;

(c) if so, the spot market purchases made by India as a result of this slump in oil prices and its impact on India's import bill; and

(d) if no spot buying was done when there was slump in oil prices, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The Mean Dubai crude oil price as per Platts on 16.1.1991 was \$ 25.30 per barrel. This price came down to US \$ 14.89 per barrel on 13.2.1991. On the basis of a comparison between the

weighted average of price for the period from 17.1.1991 to 13.2.1991 with the price prevailing on 16.1.1991, there is a fall of about 38% in crude oil price.

(b) During the period 15th January, 1991 to 13th February, 1991, we have lifted about 2.151 million tonnes of crude oil 0.444 million tonnes of S.K.O. and 0.566 million tonnes of HSD to utilise the maximum port capacity/containable inventory. Since we had already finalised our term contracts for supply upto 31st March 1991 and the prices under term contracts are market related the benefit of fall in price automatically accrues to us.

(c) and (d). The quantity of crude oil, SKO, and HSD imported on spot basis during 15.1.1991 to 13.2.1991 is 1.036 MMT, 0.380 MMT and 0.452 MMT respectively. The estimated decrease in India's import bill would be US \$ 140 million due to slump in price as compared to Dubai crude oil price of \$ 25.33/bbl. prevailing before the Gulf war. It may, however, be clarified that the benefit of lower prices has also accrued on term purchases during this period.

#### Cancellation of Flight Services

484. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to cancel flight services due to fuel cut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total loss likely to be caused to the Indian Airlines as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Flights of Air India, numbering 190 to the Gulf region w.e.f. 16.1.91 till 21.2.91 have been can-